



Zoo Guide Application

Mail, email, or bring in to:
Volunteer Office, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
5400 N. Pearl St. Tacoma, WA 98407
Phone: (253) 404-3687
Email: volunteer@pdza.org



Applications must be received by 4pm on Jan. 27, 2020

Important Notes for Applicants:

- Please turn in together:
 - ◊ This Application completed in full
 - ◊ Answers to questions and essay on a separate page
 - ◊ One Reference Form from an adult other than a relative using the attached template (Letters of Recommendation may be submitted in addition to the Reference Form, but **will not** be accepted in replacement of the Reference Form).
- All communication will be done via email so please provide an email address you check frequently.
- Upon review of this application, you will be notified if you are invited to interview or not.
- If you are accepted after your interview you will be:
 - ◊ Required to pay a non-refundable \$40 fee (or apply for Financial Aid).
 - ◊ Expected to complete all mandatory training sessions as listed in the Job Description.
 - ◊ Expected to volunteer a minimum of one 6 hour shift/week for the summer season.
- Returning Zoo Guides will be emailed a different application. Do not fill this one out if you are a Returner.

General Applicant Information: (Please print clearly.)

First Name

Last Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip Code

() _____
Home Telephone Number

Email Address

_____/_____/_____
Birth Date

Current School

Current Grade Level

Large Group Interview Preference:

If invited to interview, I would prefer to attend the large group interview on the following date:

_____ Sat. February 29, 2020, 1:00-4:00pm

_____ Sun. March 1, 2020, 1:00-4:00pm

_____ No Preference

Short Answer Questions:

On a separate page, please answer the following questions completely.
Typed responses are preferred. Please make sure your name is on the page.

- 1) Why are you interested in becoming a member of the Zoo Guides?
- 2) Do you have any previous volunteer or work experience? If so, where did you volunteer/work and what were your responsibilities?
- 3) What do you hope to learn and what skills do you hope to develop by becoming a Zoo Guide?
- 4) What do you think is the most interesting thing about you?
- 5) If you could spend a day doing whatever you wanted without having to worry about time or money, what would you do?

Essay:

On a separate page, please use **one** of the following prompts to write a short essay (between 300-500 words).
Typed responses are preferred. Please make sure your name is on the essay.

1. Many students apply to be a Zoo Guide. Some of these students hope to work with animals and others are looking for new work experiences. In your essay please tell us how your interest in being a member of the Zoo Guides relates to your future goals and why you would be an excellent choice for this position.
2. There are many different issues affecting the natural environment today and zoos play an important role in spreading the word about these issues. As a Zoo Guide you will be helping PDZA reach its goals by teaching zoo guests about some of these wildlife conservation issues. In your essay, please discuss a conservation issue that is important to you and why you think people should be made aware of that particular issue.

Applicant Agreement & Parent/Guardian Signature:

(Applications without a Parent/Guardian signature will not be considered for the Zoo Guides.)

I certify that I have read and understand the Zoo Guides Description. I certify that the statements made in this volunteer application are true and correct and have been given voluntarily. I authorize verification of all information contained in this application and understand that references may be requested by the volunteer office. I release previous employers or agencies for which I have performed volunteer work and Metro Parks of Tacoma from any and all claims and liabilities of any nature arising from supplying and/or verifying such information. If the information provided in this document is found to be untruthful, I understand that I will be released from this volunteer opportunity. I understand that I will not be paid for my services as a volunteer and that filling out an application for this opportunity does not guarantee acceptance into a volunteer position.

Applicant Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (please print): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

**All application materials, including Reference Form, Question Answers, and Essay must be
received by 4:00pm on January 27, 2020.**



Zoo Guide Reference Form

**Volunteer Office
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
5400 N. Pearl St.
Tacoma, WA 98407
volunteer@pdza.org**



Applicant's Name _____

Date _____

Evaluator's Name _____

The teen named above is applying for a volunteer position with the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium as a Zoo Guide. Zoo Guides engage our Zoo guests at stations around the Zoo with information and activities about animals. Applicants should be friendly, responsible and willing to interact with visitors of all ages about animals, conservation and the environment. Your comments will aid us in selecting a great group of teens to volunteer this summer and we appreciate your candid responses regarding the candidate. Please briefly answer the following questions based on your experience with this applicant. If you are a relative of the applicant you cannot complete this evaluation. Please ask the applicant to invite another adult to complete this form.

Please return this form to the address listed above by January 27, 2020 or to the applicant **before January 27th.**

If you have any questions, please contact the Volunteer Office at (253) 404-3687.

1) How long have you known this applicant and in what capacity?

2) Would you be willing to place a child, for whom you are responsible, under this individual's care and supervision? If no, please explain.

3) In what ways has this applicant proven to be responsible?

4) Why do you think this applicant is qualified and suitable for a volunteer position as a Zoo Guide?

Please complete other side

5) Please highlight one of the strengths this applicant would provide as a Zoo Guide. Please cite a specific example if possible:

6) Please highlight one area of growth this applicant could build upon as a Zoo Guide. Please cite a specific example if possible:

7) How has this applicant gained experience working as a member of a group? Please cite a specific example if possible:

Evaluation:

Please use the scale below to evaluate the Applicant in the following areas.

Scale: N=Not Known; 1=Unsatisfactory; 2=Below Average; 3=Average; 4=Above Average; 5=Excellent

Ability to take direction	N	1	2	3	4	5
Interaction skills with peers	N	1	2	3	4	5
Interaction skills with adults	N	1	2	3	4	5
Interaction skills with children	N	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to work independently	N	1	2	3	4	5
Oral communication skills	N	1	2	3	4	5
Willingness to learn	N	1	2	3	4	5
Self-motivation	N	1	2	3	4	5
Temperament	N	1	2	3	4	5
Positive Attitude	N	1	2	3	4	5
Common sense	N	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to handle challenging situations	N	1	2	3	4	5

Thank you for taking the time to complete this Reference Form; we appreciate your comments.

Evaluators Signature

Date