

## ZOO TEEN PROGRAM

*Youth serving their community in pursuit of environmental awareness and career exploration.*



### What does a Zoo Teen do?

Once selected and trained, Zoo Teens volunteer on their assigned Saturday or Sunday volunteer day each month for a commitment of 1 year. Teens select their assignment from a list of available positions. The day is divided in half, with one opportunity in the morning before a lunch period and one in the afternoon, normal times are 9am-3pm. A few of the activities teens may be involved in are listed below:

- ◆ Educate the public with Discovery Carts and games.
- ◆ Assist staff in the Barnyard and LOC.
- ◆ Raise funds for conservation and educational programs.
- ◆ Contribute to Zoo research – ethogram project.
- ◆ Assist staff with educational programming and summer camps.
- ◆ Option to participate in leadership and career opportunities!

We welcome teens to volunteer more than once a month if they are available.



In June and July, Saturday and Sunday volunteer days are not required. Volunteers instead sign up for hours that fit their schedule any day of the week - a 25 hour minimum is required.

Teens can take advantage of leadership and career exploration opportunities by participating in special projects and attending talks by speakers from a variety of career backgrounds.



### Applicant Requirements

The program is for teens between the ages of 13 and 16 who are interested in conservation and working with the public. Applicants must be 13 years old by January 1 to apply. The program does not look for a particular type of teen, rather we seek applicants that have:

- ◆ The desire to try new and exciting things.
- ◆ The willingness to be responsible and polite while working hard.
- ◆ Maturity required to represent the Zoo in a responsible manner and offer great communication with guests of all ages.
- ◆ Must be comfortable working in a flexible and inclusive environment.



### Zoo Teen Commitment

Once accepted, Zoo Teens commit to one year of service following their training period.

- Teens must participate in a training program (see tentative schedule). All teens must provide proof of a negative TB test and pass a background check.
- Teens must pass a final exam with an 80% or greater.
- Dues are \$45.00 to join the program, covering the costs of a teen manual, polo, nametag, and background check (financial assistance is available).
- Teens must attend 7 of 10 assigned volunteer days, counter resets annually.
- Teens must provide a minimum of 25 summer volunteer hours during the months of June/July/August, assist with a designated Special Event, and participate in Boo at the Zoo.
- Teens must participate in at least 1 conservation event.
- Teens continuing in the program past their initial commitment are required to attend a short, annual "Refresher" Training.



## Benefits

There are numerous benefits to the Zoo Teen Program. Many students will be able to use their volunteer experience to meet the community service requirement for Florida Bright Futures and school credit (please speak with the guidance department of your school on how to do so). Zoo Teens will have the opportunity to work with Education Department programs and the public, gaining valuable skills for a variety of careers. Making new friends, potential employment references, lots of experience, and a sense of accomplishment are just a few more reasons to apply!

## How do I apply?

For consideration into the Zoo Teen Program, teens must complete and submit an application. Applications for 2023 are due by October 9, 2022. Incomplete application packets will not be reviewed. Completed applications and questions are scored following the rubric on the application. A rubric is a tool that allows the applicants to know how each answer will be scored. Teens are encouraged to use the rubric to guide their responses. The top 45-60 applicants are interviewed in early November. Of these, approximately 40 teens are invited to join the Zoo Teen Program. All applicants are contacted by the end of November regarding their application status. The application form is located on the Brevard Zoo website, follow the link to Volunteers and then Zoo Teen Volunteers.

<https://brevardzoo.org/volunteer-programs/zoo-teen-programs/>

## Tentative Training Schedule for 2023:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>
Tuesday January 10	6pm – 8pm	Orientation
Weekend of January 14	9am – 3pm	Know the Zoo + DEAI Initiatives
Saturday ONLY January 21	9am – 3pm	Conservation + Commissary/Hospital/STHC
Weekend of January 28	9am – 3pm	Guest Communication
Weekend of February 4	9am – 3pm	Animals! Area Training + Ethograms
Weekend of February 11	10am or 2pm	EXAM (about 1 hour)
Weekend of Feb 18 TBD	1pm – 3pm	Family Zoo Day (New and Old Teens)

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