



Alexandria Zoo Animal Care Internship Program

Offered year round, internships at Alexandria Zoo provide a platform for self-motivated, enthusiastic undergraduate and graduate students looking to build career-related skills. Aspiring zoo keepers can gain practical, hands-on experience with a variety of species at an AZA accredited zoo while enriching the community through wildlife conservation and education.

This position will provide a well-rounded intern experience for those individuals who are actively pursuing a career in animal husbandry. Interns will learn alongside professional animal care staff while assisting with diet preparation and distribution, cleaning enclosures and holding areas, observations, and implementing environmental enhancements and enrichment in different zoo areas. Interns will also have learning opportunities and responsibilities involving informal guest interactions and conservation education.

The internship will also cover topics including best practices in animal welfare, zoonotic diseases, training, AZA/SSP information, USDA requirements, record keeping, browse identification and more.

INTERNSHIP ELIGIBILITY

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must possess unrestricted work authorization
- Must provide own transportation to/from work
- Must provide proof of tetanus booster within seven years and negative TB test (dated within 6 months of start date) to begin internship
- Available to work weekends and holidays

REQUIRED EDUCATION

- College student or recent graduate majoring in biology, zoology, or other related field
- Must be a sophomore or higher at the start of the internship
- Student in good standing, GPA 2.5 or higher

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Must commit to 20+ hours per week for a minimum of 12 consecutive weeks; opportunity for longer extension is based on performance. (More "hands-on" opportunities are also performance based)
- Must be able to stoop, climb, crawl, lift at least 50lbs, stand for long periods of time, and work in all weather conditions. Regularly performed tasks include some exposure to adverse environmental conditions such as dirt, dust, odors, temperature and noise extremes, plants and animals.
- Be energetic, outgoing, and enthusiastic to learn

- Ability to multi task, work in a fast-paced environment, and engage appropriately with guests
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Must have excellent interpersonal skills
- Be self-motivated, reliable, detail-oriented, organized, and effective time managers
- Ability to abide by all Alexandria Zoo staff guidelines and policies
- Ability to exercise care and judgment when working with exhibits and animals

BENEFITS

Internships are unpaid, but course credit can be arranged with the intern's educational institution. The intern is responsible for obtaining necessary approvals from their university for course credit.

INTERNSHIP SCHEDULE

Alexandria Zoo internships require a commitment of at least 20 hours per week for 12 consecutive weeks. Weekend hours may be required.

- Summer Internships take place June–August, deadline for applying is April 1st.
- Fall Internships take place from September–December, deadline for applying is August 1st.
- Spring Internships take place January–May, deadline for applying is November 1st

TO APPLY

Email your application packet to the Education Curator at zoo.education@cityofalex.com

Please include:

- Resume
- Unofficial/official transcripts
- Paragraph stating why you would like to participate in this internship program
- Letter of recommendation from a professor/instructor/professional in your field

PLEASE NOTE

The intern will be responsible for all transportation costs and personal health insurance. Housing and transportation accommodations must be provided by the intern.

Alexandria Zoological Park | 3016 Masonic Drive | Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

Promoting understanding and conservation of the natural world in which we live.