

**HOUSTON
ZOO**



**NATURALLY
WILD**

Zoo Crew Program

Zoo Crew is a program offered to young adults between the ages of 13 and 17 who seek to enrich their lives and gain important job skills by volunteering at the Houston Zoo. The Zoo Crew program gives volunteers exposure to all areas of the Zoo, allowing each individual in Zoo Crew the opportunity to become experienced in diverse fields of interest. Potential areas in which you may work include Education, Camp Zoofari, and Theatrical Camp Zoofari. With Zoo Crew, the possibilities are endless!

Would you like to...

- Learn about animals and the natural world?
- Teach others about conservation?
- Become active in your community?
- Develop valuable job skills?

Do you possess...

- A genuine interest in animals and the environment?
- The desire and ability to work with and teach others?
- A strong commitment to volunteering?

DEADLINE:

TUESDAY, MARCH 1st

Send Completed Application to:

The Houston Zoo
Education Section—Zoo Crew
1513 N. MacGregor
Houston, Texas 77030

Call Katie at (713) 533-6547
if you have any questions

IMPORTANT DATES

Interview Acceptance Notifications Mailed

Week of March 14

Interviews

Saturday, April 2: 2 p.m.—5 p.m. or Sunday, April 10: 1 p.m.—4 p.m.

Program Acceptance Notifications Mailed

Week of April 25

Orientation for Zoo Crew and Parents

Saturday, May 21: 9 a.m.—5 p.m. or Sunday, May 22: 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

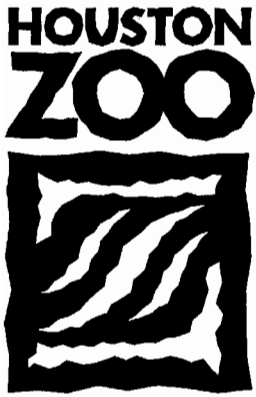
To the Applicant—You must:

- be 13 to 17 years old on June 1, 2005.
- have an exceptional interest in animals, the environment, and the Zoo.
- be willing to volunteer consistently throughout the summer.
This is a commitment for both the applicant and family.
- attend one of two orientation sessions with your parent or guardian.
- commit to volunteer a minimum of 100 hours between June 6 and August 14, 2005.
- provide your own lunch and transportation to and from the Zoo during orientation and scheduled shifts.

To the Parents/Guardians:

- The Zoo Crew Program is a commitment for the entire summer, not only for the Zoo Crew volunteer, but also for his or her family. Cooperation, support, transportation, and encouragement are needed. Plan family activities to allow for maximum participation in the Zoo Crew Program.
- A limited number of applicants are accepted due to space and supervisory limitations. The participant's performance will be evaluated throughout the duration of the program. Any Zoo Crew volunteer not meeting the set standards will be dismissed from the program.

KEEP THIS INFORMATION FOR FUTURE REFERENCE



APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY March 1, 2005 4:30 P.M.

Program Details

Program Costs Incurred

Although a volunteer t-shirt and nametag are provided, Zoo Crew members must purchase their own khaki pants or shorts. Additional items may be purchased but are not necessary.

Minimum Hour Requirement

Zoo Crew members will be required to volunteer a minimum of one hundred (100) hours during the summer.

Shifts/Scheduling

For most areas, shifts are eight hours a day. Zoo Crew members are required to volunteer at least one day a week for these shifts. Zoo Crew members are expected to arrive fifteen minutes prior to the beginning of their scheduled shift.

The Zoo Crew Coordinator will create a schedule for you based on the availability you indicate on your application. These schedules will be passed out at orientation. If you are not signed up for a shift, you will not be allowed to volunteer even if you show up to the Zoo. This allows the Zoo Crew Coordinator to coordinate with the various departments and ensure that sufficient supervision is available while members of the Zoo Crew are volunteering in their service area.

No Show Policy

If you are scheduled to work a shift and cannot work, you are responsible for calling and finding a substitute AND notifying the Zoo Crew Coordinator. If after three calls you still have not found a substitute, you must call the Zoo Crew Coordinator and leave a message. Failure to show-up for work or call in is considered a "no show." Three "no shows" are considered grounds for dismissal from the program.

Uniform and Appearance Standards

Each Zoo Crew volunteer will be given one t-shirt and one nametag. Additional shirts, nametags, and other items are available for a minimal charge. Zoo Crew members must provide their own khaki cargo shorts or pants. In order for guests and staff to identify Zoo Crew volunteers easily, the following uniform guidelines are to be followed when volunteering.

At all times, you must wear:

- A Zoo Crew T-shirt, tucked in.
- A Zoo Crew nametag, worn on upper right side of chest.
- Appropriately fitted khaki cargo shorts or pants, no higher than five (5) inches above the knee.
- Close-toed sneakers or boots - no sandals. Socks must be worn with all shoes.
- Hats (if worn) should be "safari look" in style or have a Houston Zoo logo.
- Sunglasses should allow for maximum eye contact with visitors - no mirrored glasses.
- Hair must be a natural color.
- Excessive ear piercings and visible piercings other than in the ears are not allowed.
- Smoking, chewing gum, and eating in work areas is not allowed.
- Cellular phones, headphones, and beepers may not be used during volunteer service.



Service Area Descriptions 1st Year Zoo Crew

The best thing about being a Zoo Crew member is learning first-hand what it takes to make a zoo run. During your first year, you will be able to interact with guests, learn about animals, provide a valuable service to the Zoo, and make some new friends! You will also have the opportunity to participate in fun and educational activities with your fellow Zoo Crew volunteers. First year Zoo Crew members will be able to focus on the following service areas: Camp Zoofari, Education, or Theatrical Camp Zoofari.

Camp Zoofari:

Camp Zoofari, one of our most popular programs the Zoo offers to the public, needs your help! Become a camp counselor's assistant for one of the Zoo's thirty-eight exciting camps. Develop classroom skills while working closely with children ages 4 to 12 in a fun-filled, educational environment. Some of the Camp topics for 2005 include Radical Reptiles, Zoo Fun 101, Wild Cats, Go-Go Gadgets, and Club Zoo Med. Zoo Crew volunteers help teachers with before and after care for Camp and assist during class time with experiments, activities, crafts, and tours. Camp Zoofari volunteers must have the ability to work with children and adults, be flexible and energetic, and desire to share their excitement about the Zoo with their campers. The minimum age for a teen to volunteer in this area is 15.

Education:

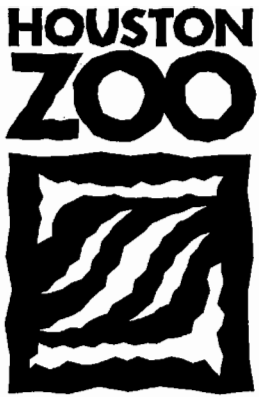
One of the most flexible areas in the Zoo, the Education service area allows each Zoo Crew member to pursue their own individual interests within the area of animal education. Among the options available to Education volunteers is creating the Zoo Crew monthly newsletter, which includes going "behind the scenes" to interview the keepers for the newsletter. Some of the features of the Education service area include on-grounds interpretation (giving creative, fun, and education presentations to our guests), staffing craft and information carts, learning about the animals in our Zoo, assisting in the Discovery Center with presentations and crafts, volunteering in the contact area (petting zoo) of the John P. McGovern Children's Zoo, wearing animal costumes, staging puppet shows, office staff assistance, and much more! Completion of an independent project is also an option. The minimum age for a teen to volunteer in this area is 13.

Theatrical Camp Zoofari:

New to Camp Zoofari this summer is Animal Story Theater. Use children's literature and the animals at the Zoo to explore a topic and translate that information into a performance for the campers' friends and family. Assist the instructor with coaching and rehearsing the actors, making crafts and simple costumes, leading field trips to visit specific animals, and participating in the performance that ends the week. Topics for this theatrical version of Camp Zoofari include Hello Without Hands!, The Poop on Poop, EGGStravaganza, and Tail Tales.

Theatrical Camp Zoofari volunteers must have a special interest in theater and ideally some previous experience with acting. The minimum age for a teen to volunteer in this area is 15.

All Zoo Crew placements are based on availability. Due to the frequently changing needs, priorities, and service areas, Zoo Crew members may be assigned to different service areas during the summer. We will try our best to accommodate Zoo Crew volunteer preferences as much as possible.



Service Area Descriptions Returning Zoo Crew

Volunteers who participated in the Houston Zoo's Zoo Crew program during the summer of 2004 will have the opportunity to return as Zoo Crew. Because of the skills already attained, these members will be qualified and experienced to work in additional service areas throughout the Zoo. The additional opportunities offered to our returning volunteers will require an elevated level of knowledge, experience, and maturity. Volunteers must demonstrate the ability to take on the responsibilities that accompany these additional opportunities. Returning Zoo Crew members may elect to work in service areas that are offered to first year volunteers, as well as Animal Sections, Education with Animal Handling Component, and Horticulture.

Animal Sections:

What happens "Behind the Scenes?" Work with the Houston Zoo's keepers and become a keeper's apprentice for a diverse array of animals that range from tarantulas to tamanduas. Assist keepers in preparing and distributing diets, cleaning, observing, and maintaining the Zoo's animals and animal habitats. You may volunteer in the aquarium, bird, carnivore, commissary, elephant, hoofstock, John P. McGovern Children's Zoo, Natural Encounters, reptiles, or sea lion/koala sections. In some areas, you must meet a minimum age requirement.

Education (with Animal Handling Component):

In addition to all the fantastic opportunities available to education volunteers during their first year as Zoo Crew, second year education volunteers will be allowed to handle a selected group of small animals from the John P. McGovern Children's Zoo animal handling collection. Learn how to educate our guests, work with current docents, and properly handle animals in this advanced position!

Horticulture:

Hone your leadership skills through the simulation of natural habitats to promote greater understanding of the relationship between animals and their environment. Assist our dedicated horticulture team in making the Zoo environment beautiful and green for the enjoyment of all visitors.

All Zoo Crew placements are based on availability. Due to the frequently changing needs, priorities, and service areas, Zoo Crew members may be assigned to different service areas during the summer. We will try our best to accommodate Zoo Crew volunteer preferences as much as possible.

Thank you for your interest in the Zoo Crew program!

**We look forward
to receiving your
completed application.**

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