

What's the deal?

What you can expect from us, what we expect of Volunteer Trainees at John Ball Zoo

You can expect...

we will value your time and service to John Ball Zoo.

We appreciate the commitment our Volunteers make to the Zoo and its mission. We recognize that you have made an important decision by becoming a Zoo Volunteer and have given us one of the most valuable things you can offer,... yourself.

we will provide primary training to all newcomers.

All new volunteers have the right to be fully prepared for the tasks they may perform. A schedule of training classes is developed for each training group/session (typically Winter or Fall) which covers basic animal topics and helpful skills.

we will provide additional training for newcomers and veterans as needed or desired.

As new tasks are developed, new exhibits opened, or as other circumstances may warrant, additional training, workshops, or special sessions will be provided to the Volunteers. In addition, any Volunteer, regardless of their tenure, has the right to request and receive additional help or retraining, should they desire.

we will attempt to communicate with all Volunteers information which is deemed necessary or helpful for their role at the Zoo.

Volunteers are kept abreast of happenings and other news through the monthly newsletter, the office wipe-board, and other necessary modes of contact. (However, we do not schedule your volunteer time, that is the Volunteer's responsibility)

we will allow trained Volunteers to select their level of involvement.

Trained Volunteers create their own schedule, deciding the time, frequency, and type of volunteer activities they perform.

We expect...

Trainees will make a commitment to the Volunteer program; including completing the training classes and assignments, and establishing a level of involvement following the training.

Training classes are instrumental in preparing Volunteers for their role at John Ball Zoo, and the assignments are designed to reinforce the class material. We make a commitment to provide volunteer training, and trust that the Trainee will then follow through with their offer of service.

Trainees will attend all topic classes.

It is extremely difficult to offer make-up training for a class that is missed. A trainee who is absent for more than 2 classes will be asked to repeat the entire training program.

Trainees who choose to become Animal Handlers will attend the Animal Handling Orientation, handling classes, and complete 3 animal handling observations.

Trainees who do not wish to become Animal Handlers may forego this part of the training, but it is strongly suggested that they attend these classes as observers so they are more aware of the various animal handling activities.

Trainees who complete the Animal Handling classes will volunteer as Handlers during the months following these classes, prior to the final component of training.

Each Animal Handling trainee will be asked to schedule an "Animal Skills Inventory" several months after completing the handling classes. Handling experience gained during those months prior to the ASI will prove to be very helpful in completing this final requirement for training