

## **High School Animal Care Internship Position Description**

This unpaid program is in conjunction with an established high school program. The duration of the internship will follow the semester schedule of the participating high school. The student must work a minimum of four consecutive hours each week. If the student is under the age of 18, they must have written permission from a parent or guardian. All students must have the approval of their program instructor or counselor. Dependable transportation to and from the zoo is also required.

Prospective interns must complete an application online. We also require a resume with cover letter. Cover letter should indicate why you are interested in the position and how you feel your internship will benefit you in your career aspirations.

Applications for each semester will be accepted until the following date:

Fall: 15 August

Winter: 15 December

High School Animal Care Interns perform basic animal management work in the care and feeding of exotic and domestic animals; the cleaning and maintenance of buildings, displays, cages, and yards; The intern will be working with a zookeeper at all times, following established policies, procedures and instructions.

Prospective applicants should have a basic knowledge of building cleaning methods and materials. They should have some knowledge of animal care and husbandry and a desire to learn proper animal management principles and practices. They must have the ability to understand and follow oral/written instructions, to perform building and ground maintenance work, frequently of a heavy nature, and the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees and the general public.

Standard physical requirements for the internship:

- Ability to bend, twist, stoop and stretch to enter animal enclosures.
- Ability to effectively communicate with the public and others.
- Hearing comprehension and sight (20/20 corrected vision) for safety reasons.
- Ability to lift up to 40 lbs. Strength to push and pull feed carts and animal doors.
- Repetitive use of hands and constant exposure of hands to various cleaning products and/or fluids in performance of duties.
- Ability to stand and walk for prolonged periods of time.

Prospective applicants should be at a junior level or higher and have an interest in pursuing a career in biology, zoology, zoo management, zoo and aquarium science, veterinary medicine, etc.

Applications will be reviewed by the Animal Management Supervisors and interviews granted based on their recommendations. In addition to the interview, a background check (criminal history, driving record) must be completed if the applicant is 17 years of age and older. For those 18 and older, a central registry clearance check must also be completed prior to acceptance into the program. The fall and winter semesters are allotted a maximum of three (3) internships, with a maximum combined total of 16 hours weekly.

Individuals will be required to provide proof of a negative TB skin test, or equivalent testing, prior to starting an internship.