

ZooTeen Volunteer Program

Returning ZooTeen Application

Thank you for your continued interest in the ZooTeen Volunteer Program. ZooTeens play an important role at Nashville Zoo by providing support and assistance to staff. Returning ZooTeens have the opportunity to build upon the skills they have already learned and branch out in new directions. The majority of the program takes place in the months of June and July but there may also be limited fall opportunities.



Deadlines and Dates to Remember

Application Deadline: Received by March 7

Orientation Session: April 19, 2:00 -4:00pm

Please Note: All accepted returning ZooTeens must attend the Orientation Session. Additional “on the job” training will take place within the assigned service area.

General Requirements for Returning ZooTeens:

- Must be 13-17 years of age by or on June 1, 2009
- Orientation is mandatory (arriving punctually and remaining for entire session). Though not required to attend training, returning ZooTeens may volunteer to assist. Please check appropriate place on application (page 3) if doing so.
- Must work at least 1 shift a week during at least 7 of the 9 weeks between June 1 and August 1. Must work the same schedule throughout the summer.
- Must exhibit a strong desire to learn and teach others about the natural world.
- Must be friendly, outgoing, dependable, courteous, and able to follow directions.

To Parents/Guardians:

- The ZooTeen Program is a volunteer commitment for the entire summer for both ZooTeen and his/her family. Please be advised that your cooperation, support, and encouragement are essential to the success of your teen in the program.
- A limited number of applicants will be-accepted due to space and supervisory limitations. A Zoo Teen’s performance and availability will determine which opportunities are available to him/her. Strong candidates may be invited to work at other times of the year or during special events.
- If a Zoo Teen has permission to stay on zoo grounds after their shift is over, it is important that he or she realize they are no longer representing the Nashville Zoo and must therefore change out of uniform. This permission must be provided in writing. Form is available upon request.

Returning ZooTeens

Program Specifics

Minimum Time Requirements: ZooTeens are required to work a minimum of one 3.5 hour shift during at least 7 of the 9 weeks between June 1 and August 1.

Shifts & Scheduling: Returning ZooTeens will be given their schedules for the summer during Orientation. Any discrepancies must be brought to the attention of the Manager of Onsite Interpretation ASAP. Barring any errors these schedules are final and may not be changed. ZooTeens who fail to attend mandatory orientation forfeit their assignment and will not be allowed to participate in the program.

Costs/Fees: Please see Fee Schedule (page 5). This fee covers training and supervision, program t-shirt, nametag and other program needs. Teens are responsible for providing his/her own khaki pants or shorts and appropriate shoes.

Returning ZooTeens that are chosen for animal care areas must provide proof of a negative TB test prior to volunteering. These can be given by family doctors or the health department and must have a negative reading in order for the teen to participate in an animal care area. TB test results are due May 25, 2009.

Continued Participation: The goal of the ZooTeen Volunteer Program is to keep teens returning to the zoo year after year and build upon their experience from past summers. Everyone who applies to the program must complete the first year activities in a satisfactory manner in order to be a volunteer candidate in subsequent years.

Service Area Descriptions

Expanded Junior Interpreter: Pick up where you left off in your previous year and learn about new animals, activities and exhibits. Sharpen your presentation skills and assist first year interpreters and participate in Keeper Training Narrations.

Animal Care: Work with keeper staff at the zoo and learn the unique skills required to care for exotic animals. Assist keepers with cleaning, feeding, enrichment, and observations of the animal collection. Available areas include the avian, herpetology, aquatics and mammal departments. Please note that **very few openings** are available in animal care, therefore making this part of the program highly competitive. Application essay, prior performance and availability are the deciding factors for these opportunities. Proof of a negative TB test is required by May 30.

Counselor in Training (CIT): Come join the fun! CIT's assist camp counselors with our popular Summer Camp by monitoring groups of children (ages 5-9) and assisting with crafts, games, and other camp activities. He or she must be able to work at least one full week Monday through Friday from 8:30am-4:30pm. This opportunity is open to teens ages 15-17.

If you are interested in volunteering as a CIT or to find out more information contact Julie Eperjesi at jeperjesi@nashvillezoo.org

Assistant Instructor: Ready to share your ZooTeen knowledge? This year we're looking for Assistant ZooTeen Instructor's to research animal fact sheets, prepare interpretive materials and oversee the FANZ club. Being an Assistant Instructor is a great way to learn more about the zoo and gain valuable leadership experience.

NASHVILLE ZOO AT GRASSMERE
RETURNING ZOOTEEN APPLICATION

Today's Date _____

In order to continue in the ZooTeen Program, you must complete the following application and write an essay (see details below). Please see attached form for revised fee structure. All fees are due at the ZooTeen Orientation session and are non-refundable.

ESSAY QUESTION: Please describe, in one typed page, why you wish to return to the Zoo Teen Program and, in particular, why you would make a good candidate for your first area of interest. *NOTE: Please attach typed essay to your application. Essays are not required for 3rd year returning ZooTeens.*

*Please submit completed application and essay to be received by **March 7, 2009** to:
Nashville Zoo at Grassmere; attn. Manager of Onsite Interpretation;
3777 Nolensville Rd.; Nashville, TN 37211; or fax to: (615) 333-0728*

Volunteer Name _____ Birth Date _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

School _____ Current Grade _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name and Contact Information

Name _____ Phone #1 _____ Phone #2 _____

Name _____ Phone #1 _____ Phone #2 _____

_____ Yes, I am available to help with the Training Session on May 16 from 1pm-4pm

_____ Yes, I am available to help with the Training Session on May 23 from 9am-3pm.

AREA OF INTEREST:

Please rank the following in order of your interest (1-3).

Animal Care _____ Expanded Junior Interpreter _____ Assistant Instructor _____

If interested in Animal Care, please rank the following areas in order of your interest (1-9).

Education Animal Bldg. & Amphitheater Shows (8:30am-Noon and 1pm-4:30) _____

Avian (8:30am-12:30am) _____ Critter Encounter (9am- Noon) _____ Farm (9am-Noon) _____

Herpetology (7:30 am-11:30am) _____ Hoofstock (*bongo, zebra, etc.*)(7:30am-11:30am) _____

Aquatics (7:30am-11:30am) _____ Giraffe (7:30am-11:30am) _____

Anteater (7:30am-11:30am) _____ or Any would be fine _____

Please note that there are only a few openings in animal care assistance. Again, teens are selected for these opportunities based primarily upon their performance in last year's program and also upon the teen's availability as relates to animal care scheduling. Due to strict animal husbandry guidelines and safety issues, there is no animal contact or inside exhibit work with the animals in the Zoo. Remember, this is for their safety and well-being as well as yours. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.



ZooTeen Fee Schedule & Availability Form

(To be completed by parent or guardian of ZooTeen)

Fee Schedule

<u>Shifts volunteering per week</u>	<u>Total cost (for entire summer)</u>
1	\$30.00
2	\$55.00

Please indicate the number of shifts per week that your teen wishes to work. _____

T-shirt Size (adult sizes Small to XLarge) _____ (inquire to purchase extra t-shirts)

Payment is due at Orientation for the Zoo Teen program. Please **do not** send payment with application.

Availability

ZooTeens are expected to work at least 7 of the 9 weeks between June 1 and August 1. This allows for vacations, camps, or other outside activities. You must work the same schedule throughout the summer.

Please circle any weeks (no more than 2) that you **CANNOT** work:

June 1-6 June 8-13 June 15-20 June 22-27 June 29-July 4

July 6-11 July 13-18 July 20-25 July 27-August 1

Expanded Junior Interpreter shift availability (circle ALL that apply; you may not be responsible to work all shifts that are circled).

Monday 9am-12:30pm	Tuesday 9am-12:30 pm	Wednesday 9am-12:30pm	Thursday 9am-12:30pm	Friday 9am-12:30pm	Saturday 9am-12:30pm
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Monday 1pm-4:30pm	Tuesday 1pm-4:30pm	Wednesday 1pm-4:30pm	Thursday 1pm-4:30pm	Friday 1pm-4:30pm	Saturday 1pm-4:30pm
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Animal Care ZooTeen schedules will vary (see page 3).

I certify that all of the above information is correct. I understand that continued placement in the Zoo Teen Program is based upon past performance, availability, and the required essay. I realize that I may not be selected for the service area that I request.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____