



Thank you for your interest in the Reid Park Zoo Teen Volunteer program. The following information will answer some of your questions about this exciting and challenging volunteer position, and will help you decide if the program is right for you.

### **Who can volunteer?**

This program is for youth ages 13-17. The Zoo does not offer volunteer work for anyone under the age of 13. Adults 18 and over may qualify for the Zoo's Docent program, and should call 837-8084 for more information.

### **What does a teen volunteer do?**

Teen volunteers interact with the Zoo's daily visitors. They use props and artifacts (such as maps, food items, and bone replicas) to educate the public at animal exhibits. They assist children with craft projects, do face painting, and read stories. Teen volunteers help with special events such as Howl-o-ween and Zoo Lights. Teens also raise money to contribute to conservation projects all over the world.

### **What DOESN'T a teen volunteer do?**

At Reid Park Zoo, teen volunteers do not work with the animals or behind the scenes.

### **How much time is required?**

Being a teen volunteer is a big commitment. Teens are required to volunteer at least 6 hours per month, for at least a year, after training is completed. **THIS IS NOT A SUMMER-ONLY PROGRAM.**

### **What training is provided?**

A mandatory training course is provided once each year in June. This year it will be held on Friday, June 4 from 8-4, Saturday, June 5 from 8-4 and Sunday, June 6 from 8-12. The course is taught by Education Department staff and includes tours and discussions with other Zoo staff members. Teens must attend every day of training in order to participate this year.

### **Who is selected?**

The teen volunteer program is competitive. All applications must be received by April 30, 2010. Afterwards, teens will be selected for interviews. The teens chosen for this year's program will be selected based on their demonstration of maturity and responsibility; as well as their commitment to wildlife, conservation, and education.

### **What if I'm not selected this year?**

Because the program is competitive, some qualified teens won't be able to participate this year. If you are not selected for the program, you are encouraged to apply again next year. Your continued interest will help you in next year's selection process.

### **How do I apply?**

Send your completed application form and **one letter of recommendation from a current teacher** to the Reid Park Zoo Education Department. We will contact you after receiving your application. We hope to hear from you! Questions? Call 837-8086.