



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. Adults 18 and over may qualify for the Zoo's Docent program, and should call 837-8083 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 provide activities for families to enjoy throughout the Zoo such as craft projects and face painting. Additionally, Teen Volunteers help with special events such as Howl-o-Ween and Zoo Lights; at these events Teen Volunteers 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, Zoo Keepers, 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 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.**

What training is provided?

A mandatory training course is provided once each year. There is a \$45 training fee. The course is taught by Education Department staff and includes tours, classroom instruction and discussions with other Zoo staff members. Due to the intensity and importance of the training, teens must attend every day of training in order to participate this year. There are no makeup days. The 2017 training course will take place on Wednesday, May 31, Thursday, June 1, Friday, June 2, and Saturday, June 3. Training will take place from 8:30-3:30 each day. One of the teen applicant's parents or legal guardians must attend training on Saturday, June 3 from 8:30-11:30.

Who is selected?

All applications must be received by March 31, 2017. The teen volunteer program is competitive, not all applications are accepted. Based on applications, select teens will be scheduled for an interview. Please note that due to the volume of applications not all applicants will be interviewed. 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 will not be accepted 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** or a non-related community member to the Reid Park Zoo Education Department. We will contact you after receiving your application. We hope to hear from you! Questions? Email Jennifer.Stoddard@tucsonaz.gov.



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| Office Use Only!! Date received : Interview date: |
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1100 S. Randolph Way Tucson, AZ 85716

TEEN VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Instructions: Your application must be typed. Please save this document to your computer, type your answers into the form then resave this document before printing it out to mail. A letter of recommendation must be mailed along with your application.

Applicant's Name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Applicant's Cell Phone: _____

Applicant's Email: _____

Date of Birth of applicant: _____ Current Age: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Cell Phone number: _____

School you're attending Fall 2016 (next school year): _____ Grade for Fall 2016: _____

Adult T Shirt Size (Please check one): S M L XL XXL 3XL

Have you applied to the Reid Park Zoo Teen Volunteer program before? Yes No

Teen volunteers at the Reid Park Zoo make a **year round** volunteer commitment; this is NOT a summer only volunteer opportunity. You will be required to volunteer at least 6 hours per month for one year. Will you commit to meeting this minimum hour requirement?

Yes No Maybe

With regards to your school schedule, extra curricular activities and available transportation, please briefly describe your plan for volunteering 6 hours every month from June 2017-June 2018.

We rely heavily on teen volunteers for many of our evening special events throughout the year, including Howl-O-Ween and Zoo Lights. Would you be willing to volunteer at these events based on your availability?

Yes No Maybe

By applying for this volunteer position, I understand that I:

1. May receive an interview by zoo staff, after which I may or may not be accepted into the program. I can also decide at that time that I do not want to participate in the program.
2. Will be required to pay a non-refundable \$45 fee if I am accepted into the program.
3. Will complete all required teen training dates: Wednesday, May 31, Thursday, June 1, Friday, June 2, and Saturday, June 3. Training will take place 8:30-3:30 each day. I understand these training dates are mandatory and there are no makeup days.
4. Will attend the parent training session with my parent(s) on Saturday, June 3 from 8:30-11:30.

5. Will volunteer a minimum of 6 hours per month for one year, June 2017-June 2018.

Teen Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Please **type** your answers to the following questions on a separate piece of paper and return it with your application.

1. Why are you interested in becoming a Teen Volunteer at the Reid Park Zoo?
2. What qualities do you have that would benefit this program?
3. What experiences do you have working with children?
4. What experiences have you had working with others in a group?
5. If you have had previous volunteer experience please briefly describe your experience.
6. Please list your hobbies and/or extra curricular activities.
7. In a short paragraph, please write about your thoughts regarding a zoo's role in wildlife conservation.
8. Please indicate prior Zoo experiences you have had: summer camp school field trips
sleepovers Zoolights Zoo animals in your classroom Howl-o-Ween
family membership other _____

To complete your application, you must have one letter of reference from a teacher or community member you have worked closely with and are not related to. The letter of reference **MUST** be sent with your application.

Please mail application packet to:

**Reid Park Zoo Education
Attention: Jennifer
1100 S. Randolph Way
Tucson, AZ 85716**

Your application packet must include:

- Your completed application
- Your typed answers to the questions on the application
- Letter of reference from a teacher or community member

Application deadline is March 31, 2017 at 3:00 pm

- **Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.** After submission, your application will be reviewed. Not every application is accepted and not every applicant will be interviewed.
- If your application is accepted, you will be notified via email confirmation within two weeks from the date that the application was submitted. The confirmation email will explain how to continue forward with the application process, including scheduling an interview and when to pay the \$45 training fee.