



Thank you for your interest in Reid Park Zoo's Zoo Crew 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 entering 9th grade through 12th grade; applicants must be at least 14 years of age or entering 9th grade in the Fall of 2020. Those who have graduated high school or are 18 years or over may qualify for the Zoo's Adult Docent program.

What does a teen volunteer do?

Zoo Crew members interact with the Zoo's daily visitors. They use artifacts (such as photos, enrichment items, and bone replicas) to educate the public about animals both in the Zoo and how they relate to their wild counterparts. Zoo Crew members can also provide activities for families to enjoy throughout the Zoo such as craft projects and educational activities. Additionally, Zoo Crew members help with special and added value events such as Summer Safari, Teddy Bear Clinic, and Zoo Lights; some of these events are fundraising opportunities for the Zoo Crew conservation fund.

What DOESN'T a teen volunteer do?

At Reid Park Zoo, Zoo Crew members do not work with habitat animals, Zoo Keepers, or behind the scenes. Zoo Crew has levels to the program and upon completing the 2nd level; Zoo Crew members have the opportunity to handle small ambassador animals.

How much time is required?

Being in Zoo Crew 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 Volunteer and Education Department staff and includes tours, classroom instruction, and discussions with other Zoo staff. 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 2020 training course will take place on Sunday, May 24th from Noon – 3:30pm, Monday, May 25th from 8:30am – 3:30pm, Tuesday, May 26th from 8:30am – 3:30pm, Wednesday, May 27th from 8:30am – 3:30pm, Thursday, May 28th from 8:30am – 3:30pm, Friday, May 29th from 8:30am – 3:30pm, and Saturday, May 30th from 9am – 11:00am. A parent or guardian must attend on Sunday the 24th and Saturday the 30th.

How are teens selected?

All applications must be received by March 31, 2020. The Zoo Crew volunteer program is competitive and, based on applications, select teens will be scheduled for an interview. Please note that due to the volume of applications all applicants may not 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?

Due to limited space, some qualified teens will not be accepted this year. If not selected, we encourage you to apply again next year.

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 Sierra Horsey in the Volunteer Department. We will contact you after receiving your application. We hope to hear from you! Questions? Email: Sierra.Horsey@reidparkzoo.org.