



Thank you for your interest in the Reid Park Zoo Crew program. Please review following information about this exciting and challenging volunteer position to 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 2022. 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 volunteers interact with the Zoo guests. They are trained to educate visitors about animals, habitat, and conservation through the use props (such as maps, food items, bones, and animal enrichment items). Additionally, Teen Volunteers help with special events such as Boo at the Zoo and Zoo Lights; due to COVID-19, volunteering for events is optional and may not be available. Zoo Crew volunteers also raise money to contribute to conservation projects all over the world.

What DOESN'T a teen volunteer do?

Teen volunteers do not work hands on with the animals, Zoo Keepers, or behind the scenes.

How much time is required?

Being a member of the Zoo Crew is a big commitment. Teens are required to volunteer for a minimum of 6 hours per month for at least a year. Volunteers must complete assignments every month as well as their volunteer hours. **THIS IS A YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM.**

What training is provided?

There is a 4-day mandatory training course (\$45 fee) taught by the Education Department staff that includes tours, classroom instruction, and discussions with Zoo staff members. The plan for 2022 is to have training in person at the Zoo. However, if the COVID-19 risk becomes too high we will move training virtually. Due to the importance of the training, teens must attend every day in order to participate in the program. The 2022 training course will take place on Wednesday June 1, Thursday June 2, Friday June 3, and Saturday June 4. Training will take place from 8:30a-3:30p each day. On the last day of training one of the teen applicant's parents or legal guardians must attend from 8:30a-11:30p.

How are teens selected?

All applications must be received by March 31, 2022. Once the application process is closed, applications will be reviewed and interviews will be scheduled. 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?

Do not be discouraged if you do not get selected. Due to limited space it is not possible for the Zoo to accept all applicants. 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 the Reid Park Zoo Education Department. We will contact you after receiving your application. We hope to hear from you! Questions? Email: Aimee.Alvira@reidparkzoo.org