

# INVERTEBRATE INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering an opportunity to participate in unpaid internship in the Bug House located within the John P. McGovern Children's Zoo! The Bug House is home to hundreds of invertebrates both on exhibit and behind the scenes. There is a variety of animals including venomous and non-venomous arthropods. All animal care is provided carefully with containment in mind and with oversight from the USDA. Several animals housed in the Bug House are ambassador animals and participate in animal handling for Zoo educational programs.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive, and show an interest in pursuing a career in animal care management. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following:

- Diet preparation and feeding
- Animal husbandry and breeding for a variety of species
- Animal handling
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA & USDA regulations
- Positive and educational interaction with Zoo guests

## **PHYSICAL EFFORT AND ENVIRONMENT:**

This position involves a lot of walking and lifting. Time outdoors can be expected, in all different weather conditions including heat, humidity, rain, cold, or dust. It may also involve considerable physical exertion such as climbing, reaching, assuming awkward positions, repetitive motions, and lifting and/or moving of heavy objects (up to 50 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have some public contact requiring considerable communication skills. Interns can expect to present keeper chats for the public during the internship.

## **REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:**

- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of a team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working in a husbandry-related field
- Interns are required to complete a minimum 200-hour commitment; internship can go beyond 200 hours if amenable to both parties.
- Interns can expect to participate one weekend day most weeks and some holidays. A schedule will be created with input from the intern but may not include the same days each week. Start time is always 7 a.m.; regular finish time is 4 p.m. but is flexible (options to work more days but less hours in a day).
- Previous experience volunteering or working in an animal related field is a plus
- Candidates do not need previous husbandry experience but working at other animal facilities is a plus
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred but not required
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship