

# PRIMATES INTERNSHIP

The Houston Zoo is offering students opportunities to participate in unpaid internships with our Primates Department. This is one of the biggest departments at the Houston Zoo consisting of many different species including chimpanzees, orangutans, lemur, guenons, tamarins, siamangs, patas monkeys, sifakas, and gorillas. This is an exciting and unique opportunity for students to be alongside keepers, develop important professional relationships, and gain valuable hands-on experience. Throughout this experience, interns will shadow Zoo staff in routine husbandry techniques, training, and animal care for our many primates.

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
- Proper nutrition and care for primates
- Maintaining of animal exhibits and holding areas according to AZA regulations
- Observing and recording animal condition, social behaviors, and responses
- Designing and constructing of enrichment and related evaluations
- 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 25 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 towards the end of 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 with prosimians, monkeys and apes
- Some knowledge of primatology is preferred but not required
- Candidates do not need previous primate experience but working in kennels or other animal facilities is a plus
- The primate internship program runs for 10 weeks. Interns are expected to commit to 40 hours a week. The schedule is from 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. five days per week. Applicants must be willing to work any day of the week, including weekends.
- Interns are required to complete approximately 400 hours
- Attend Continuing Education courses provided by the Houston Zoo
- Must provide a current negative TB test result prior to starting date
- Coursework in biology or zoology-related field is preferred
- Compose and present an educational presentation at the end of internship