

2024 Zoo Crew Lead Camp Mentor Position Description

General Summary

The Lead Camp Mentor is an unpaid leadership position in support of the overall Zoo Crew Program, in which you will be responsible for helping facilitate existing Camp programs, which are: fun, exciting, recreational and educational. The programs will be based on topics relating to natural sciences (zoology, ecology, conservation and animal husbandry) with the purpose of igniting a passion for learning, conservation, and an understanding of the natural world in order to cultivate the next generation of conservation heroes.

The Lead Camp Mentor will have the opportunity to hone their teaching/mentoring skills and build leadership skills as they take an active role on our Leadership Council, and provide insight into how we can improve the Zoo Crew program. This position requires a high level of energy, enthusiasm, creativity, flexibility, and the ability to work with groups of all ages in both in and outdoor settings.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Zoo Crew Lead Camp Mentor is a leadership position within the Zoo Crew program. Responsibilities may include, but are not limited to:

- Serving as a member of the leadership council and participate in meetings and activities throughout the year to prepare for the summer program.
- Introducing Zoo Crew and Guides at the beginning of the week, making sure everyone knows who and where to meet.
- Taking attendance of all Zoo Crew participating as a Camp Mentor
- Lead daily morning and afternoon meetings with Camp Mentors
- Communicate with both Camp Guides and Zoo Crew teens to make sure they are properly preparing for the Zoo Crew to facilitate an activity by the end of the week.
- Provide feedback to Camp Mentors and Camp Guides
- Distribution and collection of all camp feedback forms
- Identify sections of camp that are weak and could use improvements and communicate this to Camp Supervisor
- Complete a project to improve an aspect of the Camp Mentor or Camp Zoofari
- May be asked to act as a fill-in in other Zoo Crew sections as needed
- Will act as a go-to if questions arise for first-year Zoo Crew

Schedule

Pre-Summer Planning

These meetings are opportunities for the Leadership Council to get to know each other and prepare for the summer.

Mandatory

- **Saturday, March 2, 2024:** 9am-4pm
- **Sunday, April 7, 2024:** 9am-4pm
- **Saturday, May 4, 2024:** 9am-4pm

Summer

The schedule is approximate and can change at any time between now and the start of the program. It is only meant to provide applicants with an idea of what to expect going into this position. There will be several small duties that are not included in the following outline. This schedule is consecutive beginning on June 3-July 5 or July 8-August 9.

- **Week 1:** Learn the ropes

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- **Week 2:** Facilitate Lead Camp Mentor activities
- **Week 3:** Facilitate Lead Camp Mentor activities
- **Week 4:** Facilitate Lead Camp Mentor activities
- **Week 5:** Assist Camp Leadership Staff with preparation of second half of summer Camp Zoofari programming (Session 1) or assist Camp Leadership Staff with preparation for All Access Camp or clean-up of summer Camp Zoofari programming (Session 2), assist other TLC members as needed

*Please note, that accepted TLC members will be schedule for one 5-week session. If you would like to come in during weeks that are not part of your scheduled session, you are allowed, but you must participate as a Naturalist or Camp Mentor and not as a TLC member unless specifically asked by the current TLC members to assist or if there is a separate project or committee they are working on (ie Snake-Saving Campaign Committee). Additionally, to prevent burn out, you will only be allowed to participate in a maximum of 8 weeks during the summer.

Year-Round Zoo Crew

After the summer, Teen Leadership Council will have once monthly mandatory meetings. At these meetings TLC will be debriefing from the summer, planning for future events such as World Lemur Festival, and discussing future Zoo Crew projects.

Fall meeting schedule:

- September 7, 2024: 9am-4pm
- October 5, 2024: 9am-4pm
- November 2, 2024: 9am-4pm
- December 7, 2024: 9am-4pm

In addition to the monthly meetings, TLC will also be required to participate in either a leadership capacity or as a Zoo Crew in the events required for Year-Round Zoo Crew. Minimum requirements are as follows:

Fall (October– January)

- Two shifts of Zoo Boo
- One day of Camp Mentoring or Naturalist

Spring (January- May)

- Three shifts as Naturalist. This can include opportunities such as Naturalist station development, Spotlight on Species events, etc.

Qualifications and Requirements

- Have one year of Zoo Crew completed
- Be in good standing in the Zoo Crew program
- Be 15 years old by May 31, 2024
- Be between the ages of 15 and 17 *through* the end of your summer session
- Be able and committed to attend 3 mandatory meetings described above of meetings in the Spring
- Be able to commit to **ALL** 5 weeks of one of the Zoo Crew Explorers sessions in the summer.
- Be able to continue through the Year-Round Zoo Crew program. Additional once-monthly meetings beyond the Year-Round Program commitment will be required for the members of the Leadership Council.

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Preferred Skills

- A high level of energy and enthusiasm, creativity, flexibility, and the ability to work with groups of all ages in both in and outdoor settings.
- Ability to lead large groups of kids of multiple ages
- Flexibility with day to day routines
- A high level of honesty
- Works well with Zoo Crew and Zoo Staff, regardless of personality, age difference, etc.

To Apply

Submit application by Saturday, January 27th at 11:59pm. Interviews will occur between February 1-10, 2024. Applicants will be chosen based on their application, interview, and previous evaluations.

Parental/Guardian Agreement

Being part of the Teen Leadership Council is a significant commitment. We want to ensure that all TLC members and their parents/guardians understand and agree to commit to all required meetings/participation dates as outlined above.