

Conservation Education Internship Description

Do you hope to inspire future generations to take action to save wildlife? Do you enjoy sharing your passion for wildlife and nature with those around you? Then the Conservation Education Internship is for you! The Conservation Education team supports the Zoo through programming for participants from birth through adulthood, using age appropriate interpretation to inspire empathy, appreciation for animals and bringing awareness of how our actions affect wildlife.

The goal of the Conservation Education Internship is to provide a pre-professional, experiential learning opportunity for students interested in reducing threats to wildlife through informal education, program development, and interpretation skills. Interns will observe skilled educators as well as practice implementing a program, while working alongside professionals to build the foundation of skills needed to be successful in a zoo setting. Upon completion of observations, feedback sessions and training, interns will be responsible for leading programs on Zoo grounds and interacting with Zoo guests. Beyond gaining valuable work experience as a conservation educator, interns will also have the opportunity to network within the second most attended zoo in the country and the largest, environmental, conservation-education facility in Texas.

Applicants interested in the position should possess an appreciation for wildlife, able to work in a team environment, have a passion for informal animal-focused education, and enjoy working with people of all ages. Applicants must also be self-motivated, reliable, prompt, and have excellent communication skills. The curriculum for this internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to:

- Experience conservation education through observing and then implementing a variety of Zoo programs
- Learn effective interpretation and public speaking techniques
- Engage with guests and inspire them to take wildlife-saving action
- Gain knowledge of informal education program development and evaluation
- Discover how all Zoo departments work to meet our mission of saving animals in the wild

Physical Effort and Environment

The position involves moderate physical activity. Interns will be walking and spending time outdoors, in all different weather conditions including heat, humidity, rain, cold, and/or dust. Interns may be asked to lift up to 40 lbs. Due to the nature of this position, interns will have heavy public contact requiring considerable interpersonal skills.

Requirements

- Interns are required to complete a minimum of 200 hours but may be as high as 400 hours.
 - Schedule will be dependent on programming being offered each week. Some evenings, weekends, or overnights required.
- Interns should have an interest in learning about the informal education field to utilize in a future career.
- Applicants must currently be enrolled in a college institution or a recent graduate (within 1 year of application due date).
- This position requires considerable flexibility and patience. Candidates must also be able to work well both independently and cooperatively in a positive, team-oriented environment.
- Interns must compose and present an educational presentation at the end of the internship.