

Houston Zoo Teen Programs



Houston
Zoo

Teen Programs

- Teen Programs Supervisor
- Teen Programs Specialist
- Strategic Plan
- Outcomes
- Framework
 - Age Requirements
 - Program Options
 - Timeline
 - Applications
 - Interviews
- Cost
- Upcoming Opportunities
 - Adventure Programs
 - International Trip



Colleen Cavanaugh

Teen Programs Supervisor

BS Natural Resources:

Wildlife Conservation and Management

University of Arizona

MS Environmental Education

Southern Oregon University

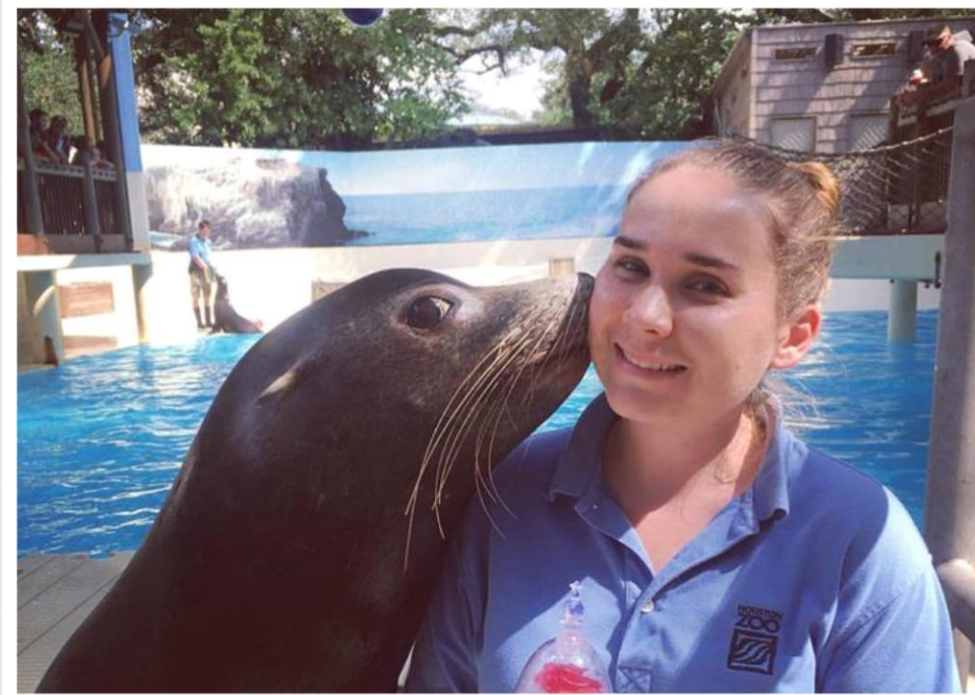














Jennifer Dougherty

Teen Programs Specialist

BS Marine Science

Jacksonville University





Houston Zoo Mission & Vision



Our Mission

Houston Zoo connects communities with animals, inspiring action to save wildlife.

Our Vision

Houston Zoo will be a leader in the global movement to save wildlife.

Strategic Plan



Strategic Priority: Leader in Conservation Education

Goal: Cultivate the next generation of conservation heroes.

Strategy 1: Connect you to nature both locally and globally.

Strategy 2: Immerse you in the belief that they can choose any career in life and be active in saving wildlife.

Strategy 3: Empower you to make conservation action mainstream within their communities.

Strategic Plan



Strategy 1: Connect you to nature both locally and globally.

Objective: Create a year-round teen adventure program that introduces activities that connect you directly with wildlife and wild places.



Strategic Plan



Strategy 2: Immerse you in the belief that you can choose any career in life and be active in saving wildlife.

Objective: Create a teen mentor program that will connect you to professionals at the Zoo and in the community.



Strategic Plan



Strategy 3: Empower you to make conservation action mainstream within your communities.

Objective: Create a teen program that connects you to the real world conservation issues with intent of inspiring you to problem solve ways you can be part of the solution.



Strategic Plan



Strategy 3: Empower you to make conservation action mainstream within your communities.

Objective: Create a teen program that connects you to the real world conservation issues with intent of inspiring you to problem solve ways you can be part of the solution.

Objective: Create opportunities to connect you with teen groups that live in the locations of our conservation partners.



ECOLOGY PROJECT

INTERNATIONAL



Outcomes



-
- Describe how their personal actions may positively or negatively affect wildlife.
 - Develop and apply effective skills to take action to reduce threats to wildlife.
 - Be confident to teach others about the natural world and motivate them to take action to reduce threats to wildlife.
 - Recognize the range of careers that support saving wildlife.
 - Develop teamwork and communication skills to work with others towards saving wildlife.
 - Apply critical thinking skills to understand issues threatening wildlife and generate potential solutions

Outcomes



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- Describe how their personal actions may positively or negatively affect wildlife.
 - Develop and apply effective skills to take action to reduce threats to wildlife.
 - Be confident to teach others about the natural world and motivate them to take action to reduce threats to wildlife.
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Zoo Crew Evaluation



-
- In what ways does the Zoo Crew program develop critical thinking skills in teen participants?
 - How do Zoo Crew participants describe effects of the program in the short-term?
 - How do Zoo Crew participants describe effects of the program in the long-term?

Zoo Crew Photo Stories



Charis Adkins

Houston, TX

Member of Zoo Crew 2017 - 2018

"Because of Zoo Crew, today I have the confidence to talk to people easily. Numerous weeks at the Naturalist carts taught me different approaches and techniques for communication, especially for young children."



Avery Bradley

Houston, TX

Member of Zoo Crew 2013-2019

"Because of zoo crew, today I am empowered to make positive environmental changes in my community."

Zoo Crew 2019



Houston
Zoo

Age Requirements



- Minimum: must be 13 at start of program (June 3)
- Maximum: no older than 17 during the duration of the summer. 18th birthday cannot fall before or during the weeks you are participating.

1st Year: Zoo Crew Explorers



5-week summer program

- 2 sessions:
 - June 3 – July 5
 - July 15 - August 16

All first year teens must complete the summer Zoo Crew Explorer program to participate year round.



1st Year: Zoo Crew Explorers



Each 5-week session includes:

- 2 weeks as Camp Mentors
- 2 weeks as Naturalists
- 1 week of Keeper/Career shadows
 - This includes keeper shadow days, behind the scenes tours, career chats with zoo professionals, and one adventure trip to learn about careers in the field



Let's here from Zoo Crew Michelle!



Returning Zoo Crew



Program Choices

- Camp Mentor
- Naturalist
- Junior Zookeeper



Returning Program Choices



Camp Mentor

- Teens will assist with summer Camp Zoofari for kids 4-16 years old.
- Duties will include assisting with teaching lessons and crafts, monitoring and managing camper behavior, and being a mentor and role model to campers.
- Must commit to 3 full weeks



Returning Program Choices



Naturalist

- Teens will educate Zoo guests about our animals and conservation actions they can take to protect animals in the wild.
- Must commit to 3 full weeks



Returning Program Choices



Junior Zookeeper

- Teens will assist zookeepers with daily care of our animals including feeding, cleaning, and observing.
- Age requirements and schedule depends on the animal section.
- Teens must commit to three weeks when applying.
- Schedules will vary depending on animal section.

Let's here from Teen Leadership Council Member Anahid!



Teen Leadership Council



- This is a group of highly motivated Returning Zoo Crew members who will lead and mentor their Zoo Crew peers.
- Returning Zoo Crew in good standing can apply for the following in positions:
 - Lead Camp Mentor
 - Lead Naturalist
 - Historian
- Separate application must be completed by February 8



Adventure Programs



Teens will explore natural areas in Texas and participate in outdoor activities such as hiking, canoeing, kayaking, camping, etc.

They will also participate in conservation projects such as beach clean-ups and habitat restoration.



Year-Round Zoo Crew



Teens who want to continue their Zoo Crew experience throughout the year can register for the Year-Round Zoo Crew program once they have completed their first summer.



Year-Round Requirements



Fall (September- January)

- 2 shifts of Howlerween at Zoo Boo (the Zoo's Halloween Event)
- 1 day of Camp Mentoring during Winter Camp

Spring (January- May)

- 3 shifts as Naturalist

Additional Opportunities



- Staff and Board Mentoring
- Connecting with Conservation Partners
- Spotlight on Species (SOS) events
- World Lemur Festival
- Naturalist station activity development
- Adventure Programs
- Assisting with Overnight Programs
- And more....

Timeline



Summer only program dates:

- Zoo Crew Explorers
 - Session 1: June 3 – July 5, 2019 (5 consecutive weeks)
 - Session 2: July 15 - August 16, 2019 (5 consecutive weeks)
 - Returning Zoo Crew
 - June 3 - August 16, 2019 (3 week commitment throughout summer)
- *Actual working days will be dependent on when you are scheduled*

Year-round program

- June 3 - August 16, 2019
- September 1, 2019- May 31, 2020

Timeline



Applications

- Applications open: Thursday, January 17
- Applications due: Monday, March 18 by 11:59pm

Interviews

- Saturday, March 30
- Saturday, April 13

*Returning Zoo Crew in good standing applying for Camp Mentors, Naturalists do not need to interview. Those applying for Junior Zookeeper will need to interview. *

Timeline



Orientation- Saturday, May 11th 9:00am-12:00pm

- Both parents/guardians and all Zoo Crew are required to attend

Zoo Crew Explorers Naturalist and Camp Mentor Training*

- Session 1- Monday, May 27th 8:30am-4:30pm
- Session 2- Friday, July 5th 8:30am-4:30pm

This training is not mandatory for Returning Zoo Crew in Naturalist or Camp Mentor positions but is recommended as a refresher

Cost



1st year Zoo Crew Explorers

- Summer only: \$250
- Year-round: additional \$200

Returning Zoo Crew

- Summer only: \$150
- Year-round: additional \$200



SPRING ADVENTURE PROGRAMS



Bobcats, Landfills, and Recycling

January 21



Abandoned Crab Trap Clean-Up

February 16



Whooping Crane Festival

February 23-24



Spring Break Big Thicket Adventure

March 9-11



Jetty Clean-up with the Sea Lion Team

April (actual date TBD)



Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival

April 14



Canoeing in Huntsville State Park

May 12



Upcoming Adventure Programs



- January 21- Bobcats, Landfills, and Recycling
- February 16- Abandoned Crab Trap Clean-Up
- February 23-24- Whooping Crane Festival
- March 9-11- Spring Break Big Thicket Adventure
- April 14- Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival
- May 12- Canoeing in Huntsville State Park

Registration for Adventure Programs is available on our website:
www.houstonzoo.org/make-memories/teens/adventure-programs/

International Travel Galápagos Islands



Let's here from Zoo Crew Jade!



International Travel Galápagos Islands



- July 6-15, 2019
- Trip cost: \$4,995 EPI tuition + \$50 HZI deposit
- Interested Zoo Crew applicants can also apply to participate
- Applicants must be 15 years old by July 6, 2019
- If interested, stick around for a complete details after this information session



Other Teen Opportunities

Camp Zoofari



Keeper Connection - #1 Parent Vote

Zoo keepers have a unique connection to the animals they care for. Through this activity driven week, forge your own connections with our animal residents as you explore what it takes to build a bond between a zoo keeper and their charges. Work as a team to create a solution to a real challenge posed by one of our animal care team members.



Warriors for Wildlife

All around the world, Houston Zoo's Wildlife Warriors are making a difference. From the Pantanal of Brazil to the forests of Borneo, these heroes are on the front lines saving animals. Discover their work and create a solution to a real-world challenge from one of our wildlife conservation partners.

- Full Day Week Long Camp Experience
- Ages 13-16
- Price: \$470
- Registration opens based on membership levels
- For full information visit www.houstonzoo.org/camp



Rémi Pattyn

Fort Collins, TX

Member of Zoo Crew 2014-2018



"Because of Zoo Crew, today I know what it feels like to have a second family, a group of friends and people you've worked with who you can depend on and have pride in being around. With them I can say I've had opportunities that very few people have ever had the pleasure of experiencing. Because of Zoo Crew, today I know who I am and who I want to be!"

Questions?

