



Houston Zoo Teen Programs



Houston
Zoo

Teen Programs

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Colleen Cavanaugh

Teen Programs Supervisor

BS Natural Resources:

Wildlife Conservation and Management

University of Arizona

MS Environmental Education

Southern Oregon University

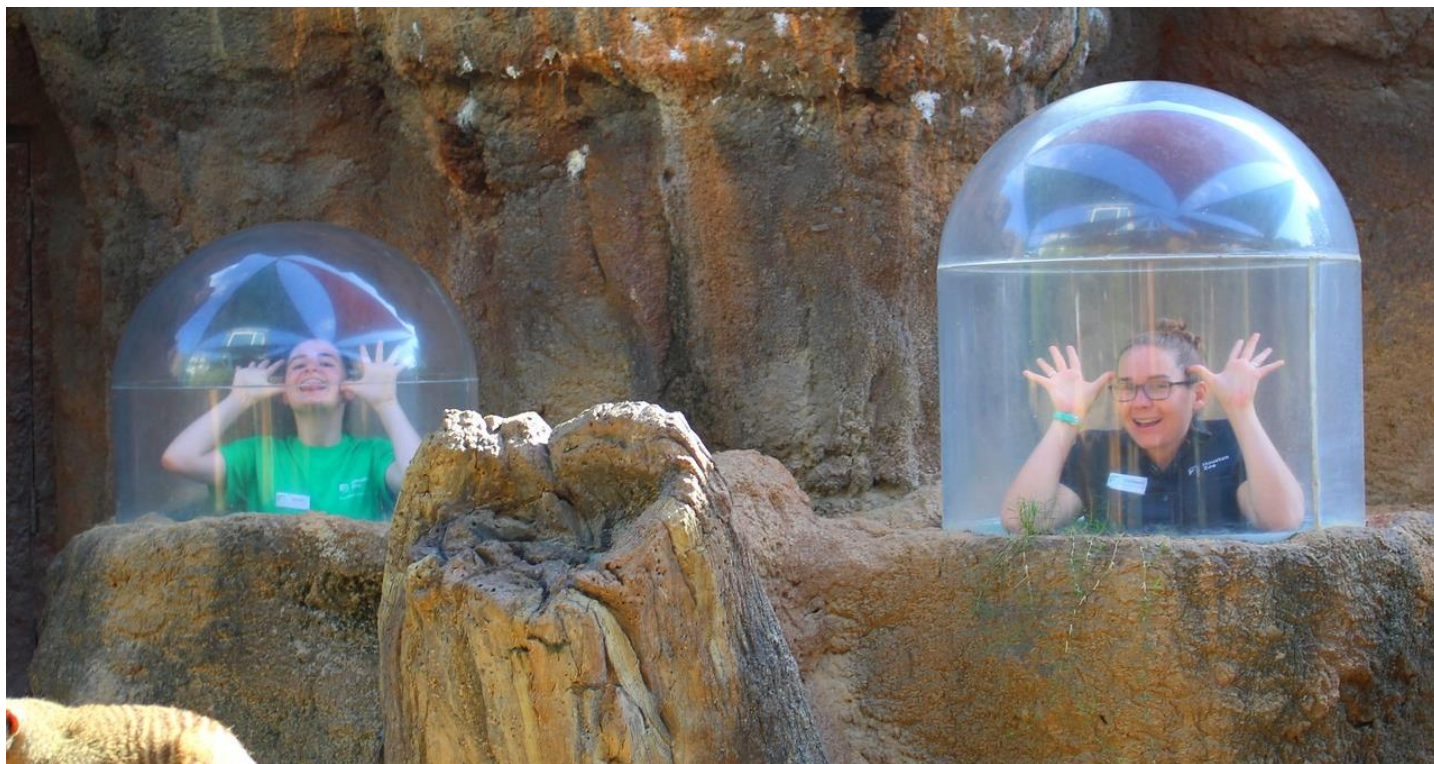












Houston Zoo Mission & Vision



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.

Saving Wildlife

Successes 2019

MISSION

Connect communities with animals, inspiring action to save wildlife.

VISION

Be a leader in the global movement to save wildlife.

164 Attwater's prairie chickens released into the wild.
The effort is saving this Texas bird from extinction.



Released 985,000 Houston toad eggs into the wild.
This program is saving this Texas toad from extinction.



41 gardens built at the Houston Zoo and in nearby communities.
These gardens provide food and shelter for pollinators like bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.



The Houston Zoo assisted in discovering a **new species of mouse lemur** in Madagascar.



The Zoo has assisted **8 Houston businesses and 1 university** with going single-use straw free to help save wildlife like pelicans.

Houston Zoo and Galapagos teens monitored

106 wild giant Galapagos tortoises.

The monitoring data will inform future protection plans in Galapagos.



10 wild giant anteaters fitted with GPS tracking devices.



The tracking information will contribute to future wildlife protection plans.

92 sea turtles received care from the veterinary team.



Replanted 30,000 trees in Borneo's palm oil plantations to create safe paths and homes for wild clouded leopards and elephants.



4 wild giant armadillos fitted with GPS tracking devices.



The tracking information will contribute to future wildlife protection plans.



More than **900 Houston Zoo staff and volunteers** are saving animals in the wild.

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.



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.
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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?

Key Finding

Zoo Crew participants
increased their
understanding of the
complexity of wildlife
conservation issues.



Key Finding

Understanding how
personal actions can
positively and negatively
affect wildlife was the most
often cited learning gain.





Key Finding

Participants displayed some evidence of **critical thinking skill development**, particularly in relation to *evaluation* and *self-regulation*.



Key Finding

Teens learned a range of **life and professional skills**, including communication skills, self-confidence, teamwork, maturity, and people skills.

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 cars 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 2020



Houston
Zoo

Age Requirements



- Minimum: must be 13 at start of program (June 1)
- 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 1 – July 3
 - July 6 - August 7

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 hear from Zoo Crew Andrea!



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 hear from Zoo Crew Herbert!



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



Let's hear from Teen Leadership Council Members Michael and Skyler!



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 or Naturalist 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 1 – July 3, 2020 (5 consecutive weeks)
 - Session 2: July 6 - August 7, 2020 (5 consecutive weeks)
 - Returning Zoo Crew
 - June 1 - August 14, 2020 (3 week commitment throughout summer)
- *Actual working days will be dependent on when you are scheduled*

Year-round program

- June 1 - August 14, 2020
- October 1, 2020- May 31, 2021

Timeline



Applications

- Applications open: Monday, January 20
- Applications due: Monday, March 16 by 11:59pm

Interviews

- Saturday, March 28
- Saturday, April 11

*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 9th 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 25th 8:30am-4:30pm
- Session 2- Friday, July 3rd 8:30am-4:30pm

This training is not mandatory for Returning Zoo Crew in Naturalist or Camp Mentor positions

Cost



1st year Zoo Crew Explorers

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

Returning Zoo Crew

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



SPRING 2020 ADVENTURE PROGRAMS



Abandoned Crab Trap Clean-Up

February 22nd 7:30am-2:30pm



Lake Somerville State Park Hiking and Kayaking

March 10th 7am-5pm



Galveston Bay Foundation Adventure Program

March 11th 7am-5pm





**Big Thicket National Preserve
Adventure Program**

March 12th 7am-5pm



Sea Rim State Park Kayaking

March 17th 8am-5pm



**Galveston Bay Foundation Adventure
Program**

March 18th 7am-5pm





**Big Thicket National Preserve
Adventure Program**

March 19th 7am-5pm



**Surfside Jetty Clean-Up with the Sea
Lion Team**

Date TBD



**Rock Climbing in Austin and Camping
in McKinney Fall State Park**

April 25th-26th 8am-6pm



Upcoming Adventure Programs



- February 22- Abandoned Crab Trap Clean-Up
- March 10- Lake Somerville State Park Hiking and Kayaking
- March 11- Galveston Bay Foundation Adventure Program
- March 12- Big Thicket National Preserve Adventure Program
- March 17- Sea Rim State Park Kayaking
- March 18- Galveston Bay Foundation Adventure Program
- March 19- Big Thicket National Preserve Adventure Program
- April (Date TBD)- Surfside Jetty Clean-Up with the Sea Lion Team
- April 25-26- Rock Climbing in Austin and Camping in McKinney Fall State Park

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





International Travel Borneo

Let's hear from Zoo Crew Luke!



Other Teen Opportunities

Camp Zoofari



AGES 10-14 CAMP



All Access at the Zoo



NEW Vet Camp



- Full Day Week Long Camp Experience
- Ages 10-14
- Price:
 - All Access to the Zoo-\$10000
 - Vet Camp- \$750
- 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?

