

## NATURALIST INTERNSHIP - Children's Zoo Swap Shop

Participate in an unpaid internship as a Naturalist in the Houston Zoo's Swap Shop! The Swap Shop is a part of the Children's Zoo that connects people of all ages to their backyard and the world around them. Naturalists are scientists who primarily study the way living things impact each other and the earth. Those considering a career as a Naturalist should have an interest in ecology, conservation, geography, or environmental science.

Candidates for this position should be self-motivated, dependable, positive and show an interest in pursuing a career in an Interpreter/Naturalist Field or Environmental Education. The internship is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn the following from our Naturalists on staff:

- Identification of natural items
- Positive and educational interaction with zoo guests
- Occasional animal handling of our ambassador animal collection
- Maintaining of small animal exhibits, such reptiles and amphibians

### **PHYSICAL EFFORT AND ENVIRONMENT:**

This opportunity involves interacting with the public and entering information into computers in the Swap Shop approximately 95% of the time. A small amount of time outdoors can be expected, in all different weather conditions including heat, humidity, rain, cold, or dust. It may also involve some physical exertion such as climbing, reaching, assuming awkward positions, repetitive motions, and lifting and/or moving of heavy objects (up to 50 pounds) on a regular basis. Due to the nature of this environment, interns will have a lot of public contact requiring considerable communication skills and the ability to present to the public.

### **REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:**

- Interns are required to complete a minimum 240-hour commitment; internship can go up to 400 hours if amenable to both parties.
- This internship is structured for a minimum of 24 hours/week. Applicants must be able to work any day of the week with at least one of the days being a weekend day.
- Shift times are 8:15 AM until 5:15 PM
- Compose and deliver an educational presentation at the end of the internship
- Ability to multi-task and excel in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to work independently while being an important part of the team
- Exhibit strong professionalism and communication skills
- Possess a desire to gain experience and knowledge working in an Interpreter/Naturalist or Environmental Education field; previous experience volunteering or working in this capacity is a plus
- Experience with Microsoft Office products (Access, Excel, and Word) is a plus
- Must provide a current negative TB test result prior to starting date
- Coursework in Interpreter/Naturalist or Environmental Education is preferred but not required.