

ZOO CREW INFORMATION



ABOUT ZOO CREW

Zoo Crew is a summer service learning program for teens (ages 14 – 17) with an interest in wildlife, conservation education, outdoor learning, youth leadership and community service. Zoo Crew is also a volunteer training program, meaning that the curriculum is designed to encourage and prepare participants to remain engaged with volunteerism at the Zoo year round.

THE PROGRAM

Zoo Crew is a three-week program running from Monday - Thursday from 9am-4pm. Throughout the three weeks, participants can expect to learn about the Zoo and its conservation mission, engage in group service projects on grounds and in Druid Hill Park, learn about different careers at the Zoo, educate the public on a variety of important conservation issues, and develop lifelong leadership skills.

Please note: Zoo Crew volunteers DO NOT assist with animal care or work directly with any zoo animals.

ZOO CREW COMMITMENT

Once accepted into the program, Zoo Crew participants are expected to commit to the full length of the three week session. Teens unable to attend every day of the program should reconsider and give thought to applying the following summer instead (or becoming involved in our Conservation Crew!). Participants are highly encouraged to continue on with volunteer programs at the Zoo once their summer session is complete, and preference will be given to candidates who can make this commitment.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Attendance at one mandatory group interview session and one mandatory orientation session during the spring
- Full commitment to either the first session (July 1-July 18) or second session (July 22-August 8)
- Full attendance Monday through Thursday each week of the session from 9am to 4pm

We are seeking applicants that are:

- Between the ages of 14-17 on June 15, 2019
- Entering 9th-12th grade this fall
- Passionate about wildlife and conservation issues
- Interested in an ongoing commitment to Zoo volunteerism past the completed Zoo Crew session
- Interested in developing leadership and career skills such as public speaking, event planning, team building, etc
- Willing to work outdoors in all types of weather, with the ability to stay on task and be kind and courteous to guests
- Willing to engage with guests of all ages and from diverse cultural backgrounds
- Able to arrange reliable transportation to and from the Zoo



BENEFITS

Along with the satisfaction of contributing time and energy towards to helping advance the mission of the Zoo, Zoo Crew participants will also receive:

- Opportunities to meet other teens with similar interests
- Opportunities to interact with Zoo staff and get a "behind-the-scenes" perspective
- Opportunities to earn service learning hours in a fun and rewarding way
- Opportunities to continue volunteering in other programs at the Maryland Zoo
- Volunteer discount at concessions stands (40%) and gift shop (10%)

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APPLICATION PROCESS

Zoo Crew is a popular program with limited space and the application process is competitive. We will be accepting 40 students into the program this summer (20 in each session). If accepted, participants will provide a \$150 materials/registration fee. Residents of our neighboring zip codes (21211, 21215, 21216, and 21217) and students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch are exempt from the \$150 registration fee.

Strong applications will be:

- Complete, well-written, and demonstrate thoughtfulness
- Include a teen email address, so that the Zoo can communicate directly with the applicant
- Submitted before or by the April 30th deadline

All students who meet the age/grade requirements and submit complete applications will be invited for a preliminary phone interview with one of our Zoo Teen leaders. The Zoo Crew application can be accessed online at marylandzoo.org/zoocrew. Applications and letters of reference (one from a teacher and one from a non-related adult) must be submitted on or before April 30, 2019 to zoocrew@marylandzoo.org.

