

## **The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Intern Position Description**

**Title:** Animal Keeper and Behavior Intern

**Department:** Animal Department

**Location:** Areas vary each session; possible areas may include: Giraffe House/Penguin Coast/African Watering Hole/Animal Embassy/Africa Barn

**Summary:** The Animal Department is responsible for the daily care and wellbeing of the Zoo's animal collection. Healthy animals and clean exhibits are vital to the Zoo's mission of conservation, research, education, and recreation. The Animal Keeper and Behavior internship is designed to provide an immersive experience to students interested in pursuing a career in zookeeping. Interns participate in various aspects of the care of zoo animals and their environment, such as diet preparation, cleaning of habitats, enrichment and training. The educational opportunities provided to our interns allow them to gain insight into animal care and behavior through training, shadowing hands-on experiences and the completion of an approved independent research project.

### **Responsibilities:**

- Cleaning, maintenance, and alteration of animal enclosures, exhibits and facilities;
- Record keeping of daily activities, animal nutrition, and training programs;
- Creating enrichment and learning animal behavior;
- Educating and engaging guests at keeper chats;
- Other duties as assigned

### **Qualifications:**

- Minimum age 18;
- Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds, and work on feet for up to four hours;
- Must be comfortable working in all weather conditions and tolerance of strong odors, hay, straw, dust or dander;
- Must be able to commit to a minimum of 24 hours per week, 8 week minimum, 120 hours minimum;
- Must have access to reliable transportation

**Time Commitment:** Interns must be able to volunteer full-days at least three times a week Mondays through Sundays, Minimum of 120 hours within a chosen semester, from 8:30am to 4:30pm.

**Opportunities:** The Animal Department can offer up to six internship positions per session.

**Training:** Maryland Zoo Intern Orientation (2 hours); Observing, shadowing and on-the-job.