

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Volunteer/Intern Position Description

Position Title: Animal Behavior Intern

Department: Animal

Supervised By: Curator of Animal Behavior Programs

Dates: May 23rd - August 26th

Time Commitment: Internships are 14 weeks and typically follow a part-time workweek pattern: minimum commitment is 16 hours per week that can be made up of two full days or up to four half days. The department supervisor sets final schedules.

Overview: Behavioral observation and management is a key component of animal health and well-being. Interns will observe a variety of species across the Zoo and collect data that will tell us what an animal is doing, and where the animal is doing it. The data collected can then be used by animal care professionals to better understand the animal's well-being, and to aid them in making evidence-based decisions regarding their care. **Internships are unpaid, and there is no reimbursement for transportation or housing.**

Responsibilities:

- Assist with Zoo behavior projects by collecting behavioral data.
- Assist, as needed, with basic animal husbandry. This could include cleaning habitats, weighing food, and assisting with habitat and facility maintenance.
- When on-grounds, answer visitors' questions about animals and the Zoo in general.
- Complete a behavior project and present it to Zoo staff.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age and current college student or recent graduate;
- Must have the ability to stand on feet for long periods and lift moderately heavy loads;
- Interest in working with animals and understanding animal behavior;
- Excellent communication and organizational skills;
- Willingness to learn about Maryland Zoo amenities, layout, operations, animal collection and conservation efforts;
- Must be able to lift up to 30 pounds; and
- Must be able to work outdoors in all seasons and weather conditions.

Training: All interns must complete Volunteer Orientation (2 hours) and a Self-Guided Tour. Intern will be trained to collect quantifiable behavioral data, perform the basics of animal husbandry, and interpret and present data.

Benefits:

- The opportunity to learn in an AZA accredited facility.
- Hands-on experience, experiential learning and mentoring by our staff.
- Maryland Zoo Internships may be applied to receive college credit in accordance with your school's policy.
- Free Zoo admission, discount on purchases in Zoo gift shops, and volunteer newsletter with wildlife news and Maryland Zoo happenings.