

Overview

Mary Wilson was a senior zookeeper at the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore where she worked for 38 years. She was the first African-American woman zookeeper at the zoo. In honor of her legacy, the Maryland Zoo will be awarding the Mary Wilson Scholar Program Internship to a local black, indigenous, or person of color (BIPOC) college student with a passion for animals and an interest in zoo keeping. This position will be mentored by an Animal Keeper, who will work closely with the intern to train them on basic husbandry and animal care. In addition, the intern will assist with animal experiences as-needed. The chosen intern will have the opportunity to participate in immersive experiences in the Animal, Hospital, or Commissary Departments, providing a unique insight into the Zoo world.

Qualifications:

This internship position is intended to provide a unique experience to a current college student with limited prior work experience in animal care, but who has a demonstrated passion for the field. Students pursuing a major in biology, zoology, natural sciences, or other related fields are encouraged to apply. Some prior experience in customer service and/or public speaking is preferred, but not required.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide husbandry for Farmyard animals under direct supervision of the Farmyard Keepers;
- Monitor guest and animal interactions in assigned areas;
- Support staff in leading our paid animal experiences with guests;
- Engage in active study of the Zoo environment and field of zoo keeping;
- Shadow Keepers across many different animal areas;
- Interact with visitors by educating them about the animals in the Farmyard and answering their questions;
- Enforce the rules and regulations in a kind and professional manner;
- Complete a research project with guidance from area manager and mentor; and
- Promote the mission of The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

The
Mary Wilson
Scholar Program



Supervision and Evaluation:

Interns will report directly to the Area Manager and be paired with a Keeper/Mentor for the duration of their internship. To help ensure progress in their study of animal husbandry, the intern and their mentor will establish incremental learning objectives for the semester. The intern will receive regular feedback from their keeper mentor, and will receive mid-term and final assessments of their performance from their mentor and area manager.

Recruitment and Selection:

All applicants will be notified of their application status and if they are invited to an interview. The chosen candidate will be subject to all pre-employment and employment standards of The Maryland Zoo to include background check, and a TB test.

Timeline:

The Mary Wilson Scholar Program is a 5-week (40 hours per week) summer internship program. The schedule is subject to change due to business needs at the discretion of management.

Environment and Allergy:

Intern may be exposed to tree nuts, seafood (mainly fish), peanuts, hay, straw, and other common allergens. Intern must also be able to work in an outdoor weather environment in all seasons and weather, including heat/humidity, cold temperatures, and/or wet conditions. Intern may also be exposed to zoonotic diseases, insect bites/stings, and risk of animal attack. Intern must be able to lift 50 pounds.

Deadline:

The deadline for applications is March 30th, 2023.

For additional information or questions, please contact Kay Johnson, Maryland Zoo Community Engagement Manager, at kayanna.johnson@marylandzoo.org or call: 443.552.5269.