

## STANDARDS CORRELATIONS

This Zoo Trek was designed for students in middle school. Participation in the Zoo Careers Zoo Trek supports Maryland's Career Development Framework.

2.B.1b Identify the connections between one's educational achievement and personal and career goals.

2.B.2a Assess one's educational achievement and explain how it impacts on the selection and attainment of career options to develop personal and career goals

2.C.1a Recognize the relevance of career information to career planning including, knowledge about career clusters and related economic information, career options, education degrees, and training requirements.

2.C.2 Investigate...career options, including those that may be nontraditional (i.e. relative to one's gender, race, culture, or ability.)

2.D.1a Identify resources for gathering career information relevant to making a decision.  
1b. Examine the relationships among education, skills, career choices, economic conditions and income.

# zoo trek

## ZOO CAREERS

### Teacher Guide

When most people think of working at a Zoo, they immediately think of zoo keepers. But only a relatively small percentage of the jobs at a modern zoo are actually keeper jobs! Modern, accredited zoos are very complex organizations, and they require staff from a wide range of specialties to ensure that the zoo functions properly.

The careers described in this Zoo Trek are just a few of the hundred or more jobs that people hold here at the Maryland Zoo. But there are many more! From custodial staff, to grant writers, to ticket agents, to water quality technicians--the talents of many people keep the Zoo running each day.

### USING THE ZOO TREK ON YOUR FIELD TRIP

Print at least one copy of the Zoo Trek for each group. Encourage students and chaperones to read the materials for each featured career as they visit the highlighted Zoo area. The Zoo Trek can be done in any order.

Chaperones can access an [interactive Zoo map](#) on their phones. You can also print a pdf version of the [Zoo map](#) to provide students and chaperones.

Please keep in mind that every day is different at the Zoo. Some animals may be off exhibit during your visit.



# BACK AT SCHOOL

## Other Zoo-related Jobs

Here is a list of additional zoo jobs that you could invite your students to explore further:

- Groundskeeper
- Commissary Worker
- Facilities Manager
- Government Affairs Manager
- Exhibit Fabricator
- Interpretive Writer
- Photographer
- Social Media Manager
- Accountant
- Human Resources Manager
- Project Manager
- Animal Behavior Specialist
- DEAI Manager
- PR Director
- Rentals Coordinator
- Marketing Director
- Grant Writer
- Custodian
- Ticket Agent
- Water Quality Specialist
- Event Manager

(Please note that we are not able to accommodate requests for interviews with Zoo staff.)

## Zookeeping as a Career

For students who might be interested specifically in the animal-related aspects of a zoo career, here are a number of resources. Students should be aware, however, that keepers in modern accredited zoos rarely interact closely with--and never cuddle!--animals as part of their job.

- The Maryland Zoo's "[Junior Keeper-in-Training](#)" camp
- The Association of Zoos and Aquariums, [www.aza.org/careers\\_in\\_zoos\\_and\\_aquariums](http://www.aza.org/careers_in_zoos_and_aquariums)
- The American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK), [aazk.org/zoo-keeping-as-a-career/](http://aazk.org/zoo-keeping-as-a-career/)
- Zoo and Wildlife Career FAQs, [nationalzoo.si.edu/education/wildlife-careers](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/education/wildlife-careers)