

# Conservation Education Intern

## The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

**Title:** Conservation Education Intern

**Department:** Conservation Education

**Supervisors:** Education Manager, Volunteer Managers

**Location:** Throughout Zoo grounds and off site locations

### About The Maryland Zoo

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third-oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally recognized for its contributions to wildlife conservation, animal welfare, and scientific research. The Zoo serves as a major educational and tourism destination, welcoming approximately 500,000 guests annually.

The Conservation Education Department advances the Zoo's mission:

*"To inspire and educate people to join with us in the active support and conservation of wildlife and wild places."*

### Conservation Education Mission

The Conservation Education Department strives to offer authentic, accessible learning experiences that spark curiosity, foster empathy for wildlife, and grow a diverse community of conservation advocates.

### Position Summary

The Conservation Education Intern supports the Zoo's mission by helping create meaningful educational experiences that inspire curiosity about wildlife, conservation, and the natural world. As a member of the Conservation Education Department, the intern will assist with engaging guests of all ages through on-grounds educational programming and outreach initiatives.

Interns will gain hands-on experience in informal and formal science education through training, program delivery, activity development, and direct guest engagement. Interns will support the Zoo's conservation, sustainability, education, and DEAI (Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion) goals while learning about the role of conservation education within a modern zoological institution.

This internship is ideal for individuals pursuing studies or careers in environmental science, conservation, biology, life sciences, education, communications, interpretation, sustainability, or related fields.

### Essential Responsibilities

- Facilitate educational experiences for Zoo guests of all ages and backgrounds.

- Support school field trip programs and assist with student engagement throughout Zoo grounds.
- Deliver educational activities through Exploration Zones, Pop-Up Labs, ZooLabs, and other interactive learning stations.
- Utilize biofacts, artifacts, and hands-on materials to engage learners in conservation topics.
- Assist with the preparation, organization, and maintenance of educational materials and supplies.
- Support outreach programs and special events as assigned.
- Assist with the development of educational activities aligned with Maryland State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).
- Promote conservation action, environmental stewardship, and sustainable practices through guest interactions.
- Support the Zoo's commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion by helping create welcoming and accessible learning environments for all participants.
- Participate in departmental training, shadowing opportunities, and professional development experiences.
- Represent the Maryland Zoo in a professional, positive, and enthusiastic manner.

## Learning Outcomes

Through this internship, participants will:

- Gain experience in informal and formal science education.
- Develop public speaking and audience engagement skills.
- Learn best practices in conservation messaging and interpretation.
- Gain experience facilitating inquiry-based and standards-aligned educational activities.
- Learn how zoos support wildlife conservation, sustainability, and community engagement.
- Develop skills in program planning, preparation, and evaluation.
- Build professional experience working within a nonprofit conservation organization.
- Develop and present a final poster presentation summarizing internship experiences, projects completed, skills gained, and key learning outcomes related to conservation education and guest engagement.

## Qualifications

- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work effectively with individuals from a wide variety of ages, cultures, identities, abilities, and backgrounds.
- Friendly, outgoing, patient, and professional demeanor.
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office applications.
- Interest in conservation, environmental education, biology, sustainability, or related fields.
- Willingness to learn about Zoo operations, animal collection, conservation initiatives, and educational programming.
- Ability to lift and carry up to 30 pounds.

- Ability to walk throughout the Zoo and stand for extended periods on hard surfaces.
- Ability to work outdoors in varying weather conditions throughout the year.

## **Time Commitment**

- Minimum commitment of 100 hours during the selected semester.
- Availability for full-day shifts (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- Commitment of at least two full days per week.
- Opportunities available Monday through Sunday, based on departmental needs.

## **Please Note**

This internship is unpaid. Transportation, housing, and other related expenses are the responsibility of the intern.

## **Opportunities**

The Conservation Education Department offers up to two internship positions per semester.

## **Training**

Interns will receive:

- Maryland Zoo Intern Orientation (approximately 2 hours)
- Department-specific onboarding and safety training
- On-the-job training and mentoring from Conservation Education staff
- Shadowing opportunities across educational programs and guest engagement experiences

## **Equal Opportunity Statement**

The Maryland Zoo is committed to creating an inclusive environment for all employees, volunteers, interns, and guests. We encourage applicants from diverse backgrounds and experiences who are passionate about wildlife conservation, education, and community engagement.