

**What do volunteers do?**

Volunteers assist in nearly every department of the Zoo, from educating guests to preparing animal diets to giving kayak tours. However, certain positions are more in demand than others. Openings in the Sea Turtle Healing Center are fairly rare, but we have a great need for new educational and guest services volunteers. Most positions allow you to observe our animals and educate our guests, and every position contributes to the success of the Zoo. For information regarding the positions we are currently accepting applications for, please [click here](#).

Am I allowed to touch or interact with the animals when I volunteer?

The animals in our collection are wild, and keeping animals and people separate is important for everyone's safety. Volunteers do not have any direct contact with any of the animals, with the exception of the Petting Zone animals and volunteers trained to handle the education program animals or volunteers in the Sea Turtle Healing Center (not an opening volunteer position).

Can I shadow a zookeeper or veterinary staff?

The volunteer department does not arrange job shadows. If you are a college student planning on a related career, we do offer a variety of internships. These positions, especially in the animal programs department, are very competitive but will give you great experience in your field of interest.

What is the volunteer commitment?

We ask that volunteers make a minimum six-month commitment. Volunteers are asked to come to the Zoo once a week on a pre-assigned shift of 3-4 hours.

Do you have seasonal volunteers?

Yes, part-time residents may join the volunteer program. We offer training 2-3 times a year, generally in the winter, fall, and summer.

Do you have family, group and corporate volunteer opportunities?

We offer a variety of rewarding one-time service projects throughout the year. Projects range from four to eight hours in length with a minimum age requirement of 14 years. Email voladmin@brevardzoo.org for more information.

Do you offer court-ordered community service opportunities?

No; the Zoo does not offer court-appointed community service opportunities.

Is there a cost associated with volunteering?

Yes; there is a one-time \$40 fee for all volunteer positions to cover the cost of background checks, name badges and uniform shirt. Additional uniform shirts may be purchased if selected into the program.

What is your Volunteer application process like?

The first step is to submit an online volunteer application.

Next, attend a volunteer orientation session. You will receive an email upon completion of your online application with information about our upcoming adult volunteer orientation and training weekend.

After orientation, an interview will be scheduled during which all volunteer forms and disclosures will be signed and \$40 fee will be paid. You will also schedule your weekly assignment and learn our volunteer software. Once accepted into the Zoo's adult volunteer program, new volunteers complete training to become Zoo ambassadors. Through this training, volunteers learn their way around the Zoo, interact with guests, answer guest questions about wayfinding around the Zoo and its programs, and learn about the essentials of the Zoo's safety and volunteer program procedures.

What are the requirements to volunteer?

Each volunteer position has specific individual requirements. Requirements for all positions are as follows:

- Complete application, attend orientation and complete interview process
- Complete required volunteer paperwork: complete a background check and volunteer handbook forms
- Completion of mandatory orientation and training weekend
- Six-month minimum commitment
- Regular attendance at weekly pre-assigned shift (specific to each position)
- Proof of a negative Tuberculosis test result within three months of start date
- Adherence to all Zoo policies and procedures

Are volunteers often hired as paid employees?

Not necessarily. Many of our employees did start out as volunteers, and this is a great way to learn about careers with wildlife. However, joining the volunteer program will not guarantee you employment at the Zoo. If you are seeking employment, please refer to the careers portion of our website to view current job openings.