



2024 ZOO TEEN APPLICATION

Youth Aged 13 – 16

(Must Turn 13 By January 1, 2024)

Directions: Please follow the checklist below to complete the application.

- Complete all areas with handwritten responses.
- Use only blue or black ink to complete responses.
- Follow the point guide at each question to help you in your responses.
- Applications must be received with all required pieces submitted together by 5 p.m. Sunday, October 8, 2023.
- Zoo Teen Contact Information Form (5 points possible)
- Involvement Contract signed by teen and parent (5 points possible)
- Zoo Teen Questionnaire (80 points possible)
- One Academic Teacher Evaluation Form in a sealed envelope the recommender signs on the seal (If home-schooled, please have a non-related adult complete) (5 points possible)
- One Letter of Recommendation from a non-related adult in a sealed envelope with their name written on the seal (5 points possible)
- Teacher Evaluation and Letter of Recommendation to be completed by two separate recommenders to fulfill application requirements – if homeschooled, choose an unrelated adult who can speak to the applicant’s work ethic (coach, advisor, etc.)
- Photo of Applicant- allows us to recognize you among a large pool of applicants
- Failure to follow these directions will remove the applicant from consideration for a position in the 2024 Zoo Teen Program.
- Due to the high volume of applications, please allow a minimum of 2 weeks past the application due date for processing and evaluation before checking on applicant status.

Late applications and incomplete applications (missing required pieces or directions not properly followed) will not be reviewed.

Applications accepted via mail or drop-off:

Jen Katona
Education Department
Brevard Zoo
8225 North Wickham Road
Melbourne, Florida 32940

Questions? 321.254.9453 x375 or zooteens@brevardzoo.org



ZOO TEEN CONTACT INFORMATION

Ages 13-16 (Teen Must Be 13 by January 1, 2024)

Due Date: 5 p.m. October 8, 2023

Date Received _____
(office use only)

Basic Contact Information – Please print clearly

5 points

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Applicant Email Address _____ (You will receive communication from us here)
Email address provided should belong to applicant. As this is an opportunity to gain career experience, we want to communicate directly with our prospective volunteers for scheduling, questions, and daily communication.

Alternate Contact _____ Phone _____

Contact for: Me My Parent

Contact for: Me My Parent

Birthday _____ Current Age _____

School _____ Current Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Relationship: _____

Parent/Guardian E-mail _____ Parent/Guardian Phone # _____

How did you hear about the Zoo Teen Program? _____

Point Guide

Objective	Points Allowed:5	Points Allotted
Followed directions on cover page	0 pts. = Did not complete all sections 2 pts. = Used blue or black ink 3 pts. = Completed all areas	

Optional Information:

Have you attended any of the following programs at the Zoo?

Program	Yes	No
Zoo Camp # years? _____		
Zoo School (5 th grade)		
Jr. Zookeeper		
Youth Environmental Summit		
Homeschool Class		
Citizen Science Program		
Other:		

Have you applied for the Zoo Teen Program in the past?
Yes or No

Did a current or former Zoo Teen recommend the program to you? Yes or No

If yes, who? _____



ZOO TEEN PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT CONTRACT

APPLICANT NAME _____

The Zoo Teen Program at Brevard Zoo is an extensive twelve (12) month commitment that runs from February to February of the following year. Upon acceptance, Teens are expected to pay dues of \$45.00. This covers the costs of a teen manual, teen polo, name tag, mandatory background check (requires a signed approval form), and various supplies (financial assistance is available). Once selected into the program, the Zoo Teen undergoes six (6) weeks of training beginning in early January 2024. Presence at training is required. Following training, the Teen will need to pass an exam with an 80% or higher. Failure to do so will require re-takes (up to 2) until minimum score is met. After passing the exam, the Teen is assigned one designated Saturday or Sunday a month as their volunteer day. The volunteer day currently runs from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. Teens may sign-up for additional days as they choose throughout the year. In June and July, Teens may sign up for open shifts throughout the week as their schedules allow for a minimum of 25 summer hours.

Teen volunteers are allowed three (3) “unexcused” absences of their assigned volunteer days annually. On the fourth unexcused miss, the Teen may be dismissed from the program. The program does not allow make-up days or switching volunteer days with another Teen. The program accepts the following as an “excused” absence, with other allowances granted on an individual basis with at least one (1) week notice:

- ◆ Court Appointments or Court Ordered Visitation
- ◆ Family Emergency with a Signed Parental Note
- ◆ Absence due to illness is excused, but requires makeup to be scheduled with the Teen Coordinator

Having read and understood this, please complete the following:

Initial ____ I understand that the Zoo Teen Program is a 12-month commitment. I understand that I am allowed three (3) absences from my Volunteer Days. I understand that on the fourth (4) miss, I may be dismissed from the program. I acknowledge that sporting events and other activities – except those noted above – are considered unexcused absences.

Initial ____ I understand that I must adhere to all behavioral requirements and Zoo rules. I understand that any form of bullying is not tolerated and may result in dismissal from the program.

Initial ____ I understand that approval of a background check is required for program participation.

Initial ____ I understand that once selected, I will undergo 6 weeks of training. I understand that I must make every attempt to be present for all training days at the times specified.

Initial ____ I understand that upon completion of training, I will take a test and will need to achieve an 80% or higher. Failure to do so will require re-takes (up to 2) until I achieve this score.

Initial ____ I understand that once selected, I will be assigned one designated Saturday or Sunday a month. On this day, I am expected to volunteer the hours required. I understand that in lieu of regular weekend days in June/July, there is a summer volunteer requirement of 25 volunteer hours.

Predicted Availability: 1st Saturday 2nd Saturday 3rd Saturday 4th Saturday
1st Sunday 2nd Sunday 3rd Sunday 4th Sunday

Initial ____ I understand that I must attend at least one Conservation Opportunity (CO) and one Special Event (SE) volunteer shift held throughout the year and participate in Boo at the Zoo in October (2 volunteer shifts).

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____



ZOO TEEN PROGRAM TEACHER EVALUATION

APPLICANT'S NAME _____

TEACHER'S NAME _____

SCHOOL _____ COURSE _____

RECOMMENDER'S PHONE (in case of additional questions) _____

This form will be used to evaluate potential Zoo Teen volunteers. If the applicant is homeschooled, an unrelated adult may complete this form. **For consideration, this evaluation must be returned to the applicant in a sealed envelope with your signature across the seal.** Completed applications are due at the Zoo no later than 5 p.m. October 8, 2023.

Please rate the student's performance based on the following **numerical** scale:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| 1 | Outstanding | <i>Performance is exceptional.</i> |
| 2 | Very Good | <i>Consistently exceeds requirements.</i> |
| 3 | Good | <i>Competent & dependable.</i> |
| 4 | Improvement Needed | <i>Does not meet requirements.</i> |
| 5 | Unsatisfactory | <i>Much improvement is needed.</i> |

1. _____ Level of maturity.

Comments: _____

2. _____ Willingness to take initiative.

Comments: _____

3. _____ Level of dependability and responsibility.

Comments: _____

4. _____ Level of participation and enthusiasm.

Comments: _____

5. _____ Level of organizational skills.

Comments: _____

Do you recommend this student to be a Brevard Zoo Teen Volunteer?

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

