



2025 SUMMER VolunTEEN Application

Ages 13-17 (Teen Must Be 13 by May 1, 2025)

Directions: Follow the checklist below to complete the application.

- Complete all areas with handwritten responses.
- Use only blue or black ink to complete responses.
- Applications must be received with all required pieces submitted together by 5 p.m. Sunday, April 6, 2025.
 - Summer VolunTeen Contact Information Form
 - Involvement Contract signed by teen and parent/guardian
 - Zoo Teen Questionnaire
 - One Academic Teacher Evaluation from a non-related adult in a sealed envelope, the recommender signs on the seal
 - One Letter of Recommendation from a non-related adult in a sealed envelope, the recommender signs on the seal
 - 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 2025 Summer VolunTeen 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 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
Conservation Learning Department
Brevard Zoo
8225 North Wickham Road
Melbourne, Florida 32940

Questions? 321.254.9453 x375 or zooteens@brevardzoo.org



SUMMER VolunTEEN Application

Ages 13-17 (Teen Must Be 13 by May 1, 2025)

Due Date: 5 p.m. April 6, 2025

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 _____

If part of a homeschool group, please be sure to clearly indicate that in addition to the group name.

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Relationship: _____

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

Parent/Guardian 2 Name _____ Relationship: _____

Parent/Guardian 2 E-mail _____ Parent/Guardian 2 Phone # _____

Point Guide

Objective	Points Allowed:5	Points Allotted
Followed directions on cover page	0 pts. = Did not complete all sections 5 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		
Night Hikes/Overnights		
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? _____

How did you hear about the Summer Program?



SUMMER VolunTEEN PROGRAM INVOLVMENT CONTRACT

APPLICANT'S NAME _____

The Summer VolunTeen Program at Brevard Zoo is a 10-week seasonal position that runs from the end of May through early August. Once selected into the program, the VolunTeen will undergo two (2) days of training on May 17 & 18, 2025. Presence at training is required. Inability to meet this requirement will exclude the applicant from consideration. Upon the completion of training, the VolunTeen will be given their official assignment **(10 days total consisting of either 2 weeks of full day camp OR a single day Sun–Sat each week)**. This is the absolute minimum requirement, applicants willing to commit more time will be given greater consideration – please indicate your availability below. Schedules may vary, but guest engagement volunteer days usually run from 9am-3:15pm and camp from 8:15am-3:45pm.

VolunTeen participants are allowed to miss two (2) of their assigned volunteer days. On the third unexcused miss, without prior communication, the VolunTeen may be dismissed from the program. The program does not provide make-up days. The program does not allow switching volunteer days with another VolunTeen.

Once accepted VolunTeens must pay dues of \$35.00. This covers the costs of a handbook, teen shirt, nametag, and background check. VolunTeen positions are temporary. However, interested teens are encouraged to apply for the full Zoo Teen Program in the fall.

Having read and understood this, please complete the following:

Initial ____ I understand that the Zoo VolunTeen Program is a 10-week commitment. I understand that I am allowed two (2) absences from my Volunteer Days. I understand that on the third (3) miss, I may be dismissed from the program. I acknowledge that family emergencies, illness, and court appointments or ordered visitation are considered excused absences with a doctor/parent note.

Initial ____ I understand that once selected, I will undergo 2 days of training. I understand that I must be present for all training days at the times specified. **5/17 AM – Orientation with parent/guardian, rest of 5/17 & 5/18 – For teen volunteer only**

Initial ____ I understand that if selected I will be assigned to assist with two weeks of summer camp OR guest engagement one day each week, Sun-Sat. On these days, I am expected to volunteer the hours required.

Initial ____ I understand that I must adhere to all Zoo policies and regulations, including behavioral expectations. I understand that any form of bullying is not tolerated and may result in dismissal from the program.

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

Initial ____ I understand that I must participate in a conservation opportunity (CO) before the end of summer – examples: clean-ups, a conservation focused chat, the Youth Environmental Summit, and other opportunities as they arise.

Assignment Preference (if no preference, mark both): **Summer Camps** **Guest Engagement Activities**

Write in predicted unavailability (specific days or dates – ex: vacation/camp/etc.):

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ **Date** _____



SUMMER VOLUNTEEN QUESTIONNAIRE

Ages 13 – 17 (Teen Must Be 13 by May 1, 2025)

Due Date: 5 p.m. April 6, 2025

Scored Responses

1 @ 20 pts, 3 @ 15 pts, 1 @ 5 pts

Directions: Follow directions on the cover page. Use complete sentences. Use the rubric following each question to guide your response. Questions are marked by a number and a letter if there is more than one question needing an answer. Please attach additional pages as needed.

1. ^{1A} What interests you about volunteering at the Zoo this summer? ^{1B} How would this experience fit into your educational and/or career goals?

Point Guide

Objective	Points Allowed: 20	Points Allotted
Obtain an honest, relevant response that gives insight to the individual's desire for admittance to the program and reasons for applying.	0-5 pts. = Provided a relevant response to 1A 0-5 pts. = Provided a relevant response to 1B 0-10 pts. = Additional details and enthusiasm for program and experience displayed in response	

2. ^{2A} What do you believe you can contribute to our youth volunteer team OR how will your presence strengthen our team?
^{2B} Tell us more, give us some details!
For fun: We enjoy seeing your creative skills. Feel free to include a drawing of your favorite animal on a separate sheet.

Point Guide

Objective	Points Allowed: 15	Points Allotted
Obtain a relevant response that gives insight to the individual's interest in conservation and willingness to take action.	0-7 pts. = Provided a relevant response to 2A 0-8 pts. = Provided a relevant response to 2B Up to 3 bonus pts. for including art or a drawing	

3. ^{3A} Describe a time that you resolved a conflict between you and a peer(s). ^{3B} Explain the situation and how you resolved this issue. This does not need to have been a major conflict, but any time that you resolved an issue with a peer of similar age - different from a conflict with a sibling.

Point Guide

Objective	Points Allowed: 15	Points Allotted
Obtain an honest, relevant response that gives insight as to how the person problem solves with peers.	0-7 pts. = Provided an explanation of the situation 0-8 pts. = Provided an explanation of the resolution	

4. ^{4A} What activities and hobbies are you involved in this summer? ^{4B} How much time do you have available for volunteering? ^{4C} How will you organize your schedule to include volunteering at the Zoo while still participating in both your family and extracurricular activities?

Point Guide

Objective	Points Allowed: 15	Points Allotted
Obtain an honest, relevant response that gives insight to the individual's obligations and interests.	0-5 pts. = Provided a response for 4A 0-5 pts.= Provided a response for 4B 0-5 pts. = Provided a response for 4C	

Sign to affirm the responses provided have been completed by the applicant and reflect their personal thoughts/opinions.

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardians Signature _____ **Date** _____

Point Guide

Objective	Points Allowed: 5	Points Allotted
Obtain applicant and parent signatures.	0 = Did not complete 5 = Completed with both signatures and dates	



SUMMER VolunTEEN PROGRAM TEACHER EVALUATION

APPLICANT'S NAME _____

TEACHER'S NAME _____

TEACHER'S EMAIL _____

SCHOOL _____

COURSE _____

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. Sunday April 6, 2025.

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>Unacceptable behavior.</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 Summer VolunTeen?

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

