



2026 Zoo Teen Application

Ages 13-16 (Teen Must Be 13 by January 1, 2026)

Directions: 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 5, 2025.
- ☒ Zoo Teen Contact Information Form (5 points possible)
- ☒ Involvement Contract signed by teen and parent (5 points possible)
- ☒ Zoo Teen Questionnaire (70 points possible)
- ☒ One Academic Teacher Evaluation Form in a sealed envelope with the evaluator's signature over the seal (10 points possible)
- ☒ One Letter of Recommendation from a non-related adult in a sealed envelope with the recommender's signature over the seal (10 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 2026 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
Conservation Learning 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, 2026)

Due Date: 5 p.m. October 5, 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 Zoo Teen Program?



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 \$50.00. 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 2026. 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 30 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 Lead Staff)

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 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 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. No-showing on training days may result in dismissal.

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 OR a Friday assigned day for homeschoolers. 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 30 volunteer hours.

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

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.

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Objective	Points Allowed: 5	Points Allotted
Obtain applicant and parent signatures.	0 = Did not complete 5 = Completed all areas	



ZOO TEEN QUESTIONNAIRE

Ages 13 – 16 (Teen Must Be 13 by January 1, 2026)

Due Date: 5 p.m. October 5, 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 the Zoo Teen Program? ^{1B} How might the experience gained as a Zoo Teen aid you in achieving future 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. The Zoo's mission is "We Share Our Joy of Nature to Help Wildlife and People Thrive." ^{2A} Tell us about a conservation issue that is important to you. ^{2B} What is an action that you can take to help this problem?
We enjoy when our Zoo Teens show their creativity! Feel free to include a drawing 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.	0-5 pts. = Provided a relevant response to 2A 0-5 pts. = Provided a relevant response to 2B 0-5 pts. = Additional details on action that can be taken by applicant 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) explaining the situation. ^{3B} How did you resolve 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.

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 both at school and away from school? ^{4B} What time commitment is involved in these activities? ^{4C} Accepting a position into the Zoo Teen Program is a big commitment. 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's 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	



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 5, 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>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: _____

