



2026 SUMMER VolunTEEN Application

Ages 13-17 (Teen Must Be 13 by May 1, 2026)

Directions: Follow the checklist below to complete the application.

- Complete all areas with handwritten responses.
- Applications must be received with all required pieces submitted together by 5 p.m. Sunday, April 5, 2026.
 - Summer VolunTeen Contact Information Form
 - Involvement Contract signed by teen and parent/guardian
 - Zoo Teen Questionnaire
 - One Academic Teacher Evaluation Form from a non-related adult in a sealed envelope with the evaluator's signature over the seal
 - One Letter of Recommendation from a non-related adult in a sealed envelope with the recommender's signature over 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 2026 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, 2026)

Due Date: 5 p.m. April 5, 2026

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/Guardian

Contact for: Me My Parent/Guardian

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 NAME _____

The Summer VolunTeen Program at Brevard Zoo is a 10-week seasonal position that runs from the end of May through early August. Upon acceptance, 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. VolunTeens will undergo an Orientation on Wednesday, 5/6, 6-8pm and two (2) days of training on 5/9 & 5/17, 9am-4pm. Presence at Orientation and 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 (**consisting of either 2 weeks of full day camp, 3 weeks of ½ day K camp, OR a single day Sun–Sat weekly throughout the summer**). This is the 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.

Summer VolunTeen participants are allowed two (2) “unexcused” absences of their assigned volunteer days. On the third unexcused miss, the VolunTeen may be dismissed from the program. The program does not provide 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:

- ◆ 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 VolunTeen Program is a 10-week commitment. I understand that I am allowed two (2) absences and 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 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 Orientation and 2 days of training. I understand that I must be present for all training days at the times specified. **Expected dates: Orientation on Wednesday, 5/6, 6-8pm and two (2) days of training on 5/9 & 5/17, 9am-4pm.**

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 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 (GE) Activities**

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

Applicant Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ **Date** _____



SUMMER VolunTEEN PROGRAM TEACHER EVALUATION

APPLICANT NAME _____

TEACHER NAME _____

SCHOOL _____ COURSE _____

YEARS KNOWN _____ PHONE or EMAIL _____

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 5, 2026.

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

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

