



WHAT DOES A SUMMER VolunTEEN DO?

Summer VolunTeens is a 10-week program at Brevard Zoo that runs from June 2 through the first week of August. Once selected, the VolunTeen undergoes three (3) days of training May 25-27, 2016. Presence at training is required. Upon the completion of training, the VolunTeen will be given their official assignment (**10 days minimum, either 2 weeks of camp or a single day commitment Sun-Sat each week**). This is the absolute minimum requirement, please indicate your availability on the application. Volunteer schedules vary, but most assignments run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m. VolunTeens may sign-up for additional days as they choose and are asked to participate in one Zoo conservation event.

Possible Assignments:

- Educate the public with Discovery Carts.
- Enhance guest experience with educational games and activities.
- Raise awareness and funds for conservation programs.
- Assist staff with summer camps.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The program is for teens between the ages of 13 to 16 who are interested in animals and working with the public. Applicants must be 13 years old by May 1. Applicants do not need a vast knowledge of animals or zoos. The program seeks applicants that have:

- The desire to try new and exciting things.
- The willingness to be responsible and polite while working hard.
- Immense parental support for transporting the teen to and from the Zoo.
- Maturity required to represent the Zoo in a responsible manner and engage with guests of all ages in great communication.

BENEFITS

There are numerous benefits to the Summer VolunTeen Program. Many students are able to use their volunteer experience to meet the community service requirement for the Florida Bright Futures Scholarships (please speak with the guidance department of your school on how to do so). Depending on their school, students may receive credit for their volunteer hours. Volunteers have the opportunity to work with education department staff and the public, gaining valuable skills for a variety of careers. Making new friends, earning potential employment references, gaining lots of experience and a sense of accomplishment are just a few more reasons to apply!

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications for 2016 are due by 5pm May 6, 2016. Completed applications and questions are scored according to a rubric based on complete responses. We are seeking about 15 summer volunteers and may ask applicants to come in for an interview if needed. All applicants will be contacted by May 13 regarding their status.

Return to:

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

Questions? 321.254.9453 x375 or
zooteens@brevardzoo.org



SUMMER VolunTEEN Application

Ages 13-16 (Teen Must Be 13 by May 1, 2016)

Due Date: 5p.m. May 6, 2016

Date Received _____ (office use only)

Getting to Know You

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ (You will receive communication from us at this address)

Address belongs to: Me My Parent

Alternate Contact _____ Birthday _____ Current Age _____

Contact for: Me My Parent School _____ Grade _____

Parent/Guardian Full Name _____ Relationship: _____

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

Optional Information:

Have you attended any of the following programs at the Zoo?	Yes	No
Zoo Camp: # years? _____		
Zoo School (5 th grade)		
Jr. Zookeeper		
Youth 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? _____

How did you hear about the Summer Program?

Please answer these questions on an attached sheet of paper in your own handwriting. use blue or black ink:

1. What interests you about volunteering at the Zoo this summer? How would this experience fit into your educational and/or career goals?
2. The Zoo's mission is "Wildlife Conservation through Education and Participation." What is one conservation issue that is important to you? What could you do to help this problem? Show your creativity! Feel free to include a drawing.
3. What activities and hobbies are you involved in this summer? How much time do you have available for volunteering? How will you organize your schedule to include volunteering at the Zoo while still participating in both your family and extracurricular activities?

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____



SUMMER VolunTEEN PROGRAM INVOLVMENT CONTRACT

APPLICANT'S NAME _____

Summer VolunTeens is a 10-week program at Brevard Zoo that runs from June 2 through the first week of August. Once selected into the program, the VolunTeen undergoes three (3) days of training beginning May 25-27, 2016. Presence at training is required. Upon the completion of training, the VolunTeen will be given their official assignment **(10 days, either 2 weeks of camp or a single day commitment 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. The volunteer day currently runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m. VolunTeens may sign-up for additional days as they choose.

Once accepted VolunTeens pay dues of \$25.00. This covers the costs of a teen manual, teen shirt, nametag, and various supplies. VolunTeens are required to participate in one summer conservation activity. VolunTeen positions are temporary, however, interested teens are encouraged to apply for the full Zoo Teen Program in the fall.

VolunTeen participants are allowed to miss two of their assigned volunteer days to account for summer vacations. On the third miss, the VolunTeen is dismissed from the program. The program does not allow switching volunteer days with another VolunTeen.

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 will be dismissed from the program.

Initial ___ I understand that once selected, I will undergo 3 days 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 I must participate in one summer conservation event.

Initial ___ I understand that once selected, I will be assigned to assist with summer camps or to one day (Sun-Sat) each week. On this day, I am expected to volunteer the hours required.

Assignment Preference: Summer Camps Guest Engagement Activities

Write in Predicted Availability (days Sun-Sat or specific dates):

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Parent's Signature _____ **Date** _____



SUMMER VolunTEEN PROGRAM TEACHER EVALUATION

APPLICANT'S NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

TEACHER'S NAME _____

COURSE _____

This form will be used to evaluate potential Zoo Teen summer volunteers. **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. Friday May 6, 2016.

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> |

_____ Level of maturity.

Comments: _____

_____ Willingness to take initiative.

Comments: _____

_____ Level of dependability and responsibility.

Comments: _____

_____ Level of participation and enthusiasm.

Comments: _____

_____ Level of organizational skills.

Comments: _____

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

SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____