

VolunTEEN Opportunities

Volunteering is Fun and Rewarding!

This very popular program, designed for teens age thirteen (by May 31, 2009) through seventeen, is an exciting and fun way to spend some of your summer.

Are you *dedicated* and *responsible*? Those are the qualities teenagers must have to volunteer at the Zoo. You must also commit to working at least one four-hour shift per week or a full week of mornings as a T.E.A.M Teacher's Aide, or T.E.A.M. Leader

See all the exciting volunteer opportunities available below.

Please don't be upset if you are not initially selected for the VolunTEEN Program. While we do not have enough opportunities to accommodate all who want to volunteer here, we do keep a waiting list and sometimes those on the list are brought into the program because others are unable to fulfill their commitment.

For more information please call the Volunteer Services Office at 513-559-7736.

VolunTEEN Opportunities	
ANIMAL HANDLERS	You must be at least 15 years old with at least 2 years of Zoo VolunTeen experience and be able to commit to a four hour shift per week. The animal handler program allows our visitors to get up close and personal with some of the smaller members of the children's Zoo family such as snakes, chinchillas, hedgehogs and turtles. Teens will work with an adult volunteer and handle animals in a small theater setting to allow the visitors to touch and learn more about our animal friends. The Teens must also be willing to speak in public.
GARDEN AMBASSADOR	You must be at least 13 years old and be able to commit to a four hour shift per week, either with classes or gardening. You will assist with hands-on activities related to all that is "botanical". You must be responsible and able to communicate with visitors and willing to handle small plants. You will help visitors with crafts and displays showcasing the Garden.
GARDEN ASSISTANT	You must be at least 13 years old and be able to commit to a four hour shift per week. The Garden Assistant Program is offered through the Horticulture Department. These volunteers help with garden maintenance including planting, weeding, watering and various other jobs throughout the garden. This is a unique opportunity to work in many areas of the Zoo.
T.E.A.M. TEACHERS' AIDE	You must be at least 13 years old, but instead of choosing to work one day a week, you will be required to work a full week at a time, Monday through Friday. You may choose to work as many weeks as you like, but a minimum of 2 weeks is required. You are strongly encouraged to work full day shifts, but a.m. and p.m. shifts are available. Teen Educators And Mentors (T.E.A.M.) Teachers' Aides assist the Education staff with summer Zoo classes. They will help prepare for the daily classes, assist children with crafts and activities, and help keep children together during hikes in the zoo. These classes are a great way to learn about animals in all areas of the Zoo.
T.E.A.M. LEADER	You must be at least 15 years old with 2 years Zoo VolunTeen experience. You will be required to work a full week at a time, Monday through Friday. You may choose to work as many weeks as you like, but a minimum of 2 weeks is required. You are strongly encouraged to work full day shifts, but a.m. and p.m. shifts are available. T.E.A.M. Leaders will perform all the same duties as the Teachers' aides, and in addition will act as role models and mentors to other T.E.A.M. teens, be responsible for checking in/out other T.E.A.M. teens as they arrive/leave for the day, and assist the Education staff with the retrieval and return of education animal ambassadors used in summer programs.
LORIKEET LANDING	You must be at least 13 years old and be able to commit to a 3-1/2 hour shift per week. Teens will interact with Zoo guests and help them feed the birds nectar and feed sticks. You will also assist with ensuring the safety of the birds in the flight cage by making sure they do not escape from the exhibit.
BIRD HOUSE JUNIOR KEEPER	You must be at least 15 and be able to commit to a four hour shift per week. These teens will be assisting the keepers at the Wings of the World exhibit with their everyday duties, such as feeding the birds, cleaning cages and other general duties at the bird house.
CHILDREN'S ZOO GOAT YARD	You must be at least 15 and be able to commit to a four hour shift per week. You will interact with Zoo visitors by providing information about the animals, answering questions, and helping to keep the animals safe and the yard clean.



CINCINNATI ZOO AND BOTANICAL GARDEN

2009 VolunTeen Application



(Read carefully and complete each area)

If your application is incomplete it will be returned to you.

Date: _____ Are you new to our program? _____ (**letters of reference plus your personal letter required**)

If you are a returning VolunTeen, only your personal letter is required with this application.

Circle your tee-shirt size. S M L XL

Name: _____
Please Print Legibly (Last) (First) (Middle)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Age: _____ Birth date: _____ e-mail: _____


School: _____ Grade next fall: _____

You must rank the opportunities below in order of preference. Except for the Education positions, these opportunities require at least one shift per week throughout the summer.

_____ Animal Handlers (**must be 15 years old with 2 years Zoo experience and be willing to speak in public**)

_____ Lorikeet Landing 

_____ Garden Ambassador

_____ Garden Assistant 

_____ Children's Zoo Goat Yard (**must be 15 years old**)

_____ Education T.E.A.M. Teachers' Aide *

_____ Jr. Keeper - Bird House (**must be 15 years old**)

_____ Education T.E.A.M. Leader (**must be 15 years old with 2 years Zoo experience**)*

* T.E.A.M. teachers' aides and T.E.A.M. Leaders will be asked to choose which **weeks** (Monday through Friday) they will work throughout the summer.

Note: We try to give everyone their first choice, but space is limited, especially in the Animal Handlers program.

VolunTeens are needed every day of the week, including weekends. Please tell us your preferred day(s) and time of day (a.m./p.m. or all day). We prefer T.E.A.M. teens to sign up for all-day shifts.

Tell us the day(s) or week(s) you cannot work due to other commitments or vacations.

What date are you available to begin the Zoo's summer program? _____

What are your favorite school subjects? _____

List any previous employment or volunteer experiences: _____

List your hobbies and interests _____

Tell us two or three things that you think are important when working with others: _____

This application must be completed by the applicant (if able), not by the parent, and **returned to us by March 1st**. Send your complete application papers and letter(s) **together in one envelope** to:

VolunTeen Program, The Cincinnati Zoo Volunteer Services Office
3400 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45220-1399

To the parent or guardian: Please read and sign the following:

I give my permission for my child to participate in the Cincinnati Zoo's VolunTeen Program.

My child may be photographed for public relations purposes.



Signature: _____ Date: _____

In case of emergency, contact: _____

Relationship to teen: _____ Your daytime phone number: _____

List any physical or medical limitations, including allergies, of your teen: _____

Physician name: _____ Phone: _____

Dentist name: _____ Phone: _____

In an emergency, if the parent/guardian or designated Physician/Dentist cannot be reached, I authorize the Cincinnati Zoo to transport and/or obtain medical services from a hospital/doctor of their choice for my child.

Parent/Guardian signature: _____ Date: _____

(rev. 1/15/2009)