

ZooTeen Program

First Year ZooTeen Application

The ZooTeen Program is designed for young adults between the ages of 13 and 17 who exhibit a strong desire to learn and teach others about the natural world while gaining valuable volunteer experience. It is important that applicants understand that the program is **not** a summer camp program but rather an opportunity to focus on learning public communication skills. With each continuing year, ZooTeens will be eligible to apply for different positions throughout the Zoo. Currently, First Year ZooTeens only work in the summer months of June and July but there may also be limited fall opportunities.



Deadlines and Dates to Remember

Application Deadline: Received by April 4, 2009

Training Session #1: May 16, 9:00am-12:00pm

Acceptance Notifications go out: Week of April 6

Training Session #2: May 23, 9am-3:00pm

Orientation: April 19, 2:00pm-4:00pm

Please Note: Orientation and all training sessions are mandatory for participation in the program.

General Requirements for ZooTeen Volunteers:

- Must be 13-17 years of age by June 1, 2009.
- Must attend all orientation and training sessions (arriving punctually and remaining for entire session).
- Must work at least 1 shift a week during at least 7 of the 9 weeks between June 1 and August 1. Must work the same schedule throughout the summer.
- Must exhibit a strong desire to learn and teach others about the natural world.
- Must be friendly, outgoing, dependable, courteous, and able to follow directions.

To Parents/Guardians:

- The ZooTeen Program is a volunteer commitment for the entire summer for both ZooTeen and his/her family. Please be advised that your cooperation, support, and encouragement are essential to the success of your teen in the program.
- A limited number of applicants are accepted due to space and supervisory limitations. In addition to providing valuable skills, the training sessions should also be looked at as a 'tryout' for the program. A ZooTeen's performance and availability will determine which opportunities are available to him or her. Strong candidates may be invited to work at other times of the year as well as during special events.
- If a ZooTeen has permission to stay on zoo grounds after their shift is over, it is important that he or she realize they are no longer representing the Nashville Zoo and must change out of the ZooTeen uniform. Permission to tour the park without adult supervision must be provided in writing.

First Year ZooTeens

Program Specifics

Minimum Time Requirements: ZooTeens are required to work a minimum of one shift during at least 7 of the weeks between June 2 and August 1.

Shifts & Scheduling: Each shift is 3.5 hours long and occurs from 9:00am to 12:30pm and 1:00pm to 4:30pm. If the teen chooses to serve two shifts in one day, one half hour lunch break will be provided. Teens may not serve more than 2 shifts per week.

ZooTeens will be given their schedules for the summer during one of the training sessions. Any discrepancies must be brought to the attention of the Manager of Onsite Interpretation ASAP. Barring any errors these schedules are final and may not be changed.

Costs/Fees: Fees for the entire summer program are a minimum of \$30 and a maximum of \$55. This fee covers program t-shirt, nametag, training, supervision and other program needs. All fees are due on the second day of training and are non-refundable. Teens are responsible for providing their own khaki pants or shorts and appropriate shoes. Please see Fee Schedule (page 4) for complete information.

Continued Participation: The goal of the ZooTeen Program is to keep teens returning to the Zoo year after year and to build upon their experience from past years. Everyone who applies to the program must complete the first year activities in a satisfactory manner in order to be considered in subsequent years. It is our hope that all teens will strive to do their very best while volunteering at Nashville Zoo.

Service Area Descriptions

Junior Interpreter: Junior Interpreters have a wonderful opportunity to learn about animals and improve their public speaking skills by sharing knowledge with zoo visitors. As an interpreter you may:

- Be at the front of the action when guests touch their first snake shed or parrot feather.
- Help children make commemorative buttons.
- Take FANZ Club card donations during animal shows
- Teach visitors about the diet of a meerkat.
- And more!

Junior Interpreters will spend their days meeting new people and building fast friendships with other ZooTeens. This is where most ZooTeens will begin.

Counselor in Training (CIT): Come join the fun! CIT's assist camp counselors with our popular Summer Camp by monitoring groups of children (ages 5-9) and assisting with crafts, games, and other camp activities. He or she must be able to work at least one full week Monday through Friday from 8:30am-3:30pm. This opportunity is open to teens ages 15-17.

If you are interested in volunteering as a CIT or to find out more information contact Julie Eperjesi at jeperjesi@nashvillezoo.org

**NASHVILLE ZOO AT GRASSMERE
FIRST YEAR ZOOTEEN APPLICATION**

Today's Date _____
Application due by April 4, 2009

Thank you for your interest in the ZooTeen Volunteer Program. After specialized training, first-year ZooTeens are stationed at different exhibits throughout the park where they talk with visitors about the animals that call the Nashville Zoo home. With each continuing year, ZooTeens will be able to apply for varying positions such as camp assistants and animal care.

ESSAY QUESTION: In 100 words or less, please describe why you want to volunteer at Nashville Zoo. What is it you hope to gain from the experience? Please attach typed essay to your application.

*Please submit completed application and essay to be received by **March 7, 2009** to:
Nashville Zoo at Grassmere; attn. Manager of Onsite Interpretation;
3777 Nolensville Rd.; Nashville, TN 37211; or fax to: (615) 333-0728*

Volunteer Name _____ Birth Date _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

School _____ Current Grade _____

Parent(s) or Guardian(s) Name and Contact Information

Name _____ Phone #1 _____ Phone #2 _____

Name _____ Phone #1 _____ Phone #2 _____

Do you enjoy working with children? _____

Please describe your experiences working with children. _____

List your hobbies and/or interests. _____

List any organizations, groups, or teams in which you participate. _____

Please list any place and dates where you have volunteered or worked for pay.

Please provide the names of the two individuals (non-relatives) from whom you are requesting references:

1. _____
2. _____

Recommendation Form is attached to application (page 6). Please make copies as needed.

ZooTeen Fee Schedule & Availability Form

(To be completed by parent of ZooTeen)

Fee Schedule

<u>Shifts volunteering per week</u>	<u>Total Cost (for entire summer)</u>
1	\$30.00
2	\$55.00

*\$55 is the maximum fee for the entire summer.

Please indicate the number of shifts per week that your teen wishes to work. _____
 (It may not be possible to work as many shifts as desired depending on volume of accepted applicants).

Payment is due on or by the second training session, May 23. Please **do not** send payment with application.

Availability

ZooTeens are expected to volunteer one or two shifts during at least 7 of the 9 weeks between June 1 and August 1. Optional weeks off allow for vacations, camps, or other outside activities. ZooTeens must work the same schedule throughout the summer.

Please circle any weeks (no more than 2) that you CANNOT volunteer:

June 1-6 June 8-13 June 15-20 June 22-27 June 29-July 4
 July 6-11 July 13-18 July 20-25 July 27-August 1

Junior Interpreter Shift Availability (circle ALL that apply; again, you may not be responsible to work all shifts that are circled)

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
 9am-12:30pm 9am-12:30 pm 9am-12:30pm 9am-12:30pm 9am-12:30pm 9am-12:30pm

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday
 1pm-4:30pm 1pm-4:30pm 1pm-4:30pm 1pm-4:30pm 1pm-4:30pm 1pm-4:30pm

I certify that all of the above information is correct. I understand that acceptance as a ZooTeen volunteer is based on a combination of my skills, interests, and the needs of Nashville Zoo at Grassmere. I realize that not all opportunities may be available.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____ Date _____

ZooTeen Program

First Year ZooTeen Recommendation Form



To be completed by applicant:

Applicant's Name _____ Date _____

To be completed by adult reference:

Dear Leader,

The student above has applied to serve as a volunteer for Nashville Zoo at Grassmere and has listed you as a reference. As part of the application process, the applicant must turn in two Recommendation Forms. Please take a few moments to complete this form with the above listed student in mind. *The completed form must be received by **March 7, 2009**.* Send to Nashville Zoo at Grassmere; attn. Manager of Onsite Interpretation; 3777 Nolensville Rd.; Nashville, TN 37211; or fax to: (615) 333-0728

Reference Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Relationship to applicant _____ Years known the applicant _____

Please rate the applicant's attitude and personal attributes on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 meaning "very positive" and 1 meaning "needs work".

Is the applicant assertive	1 2 3 4 5	Punctual	1 2 3 4 5
Does he/she have an enthusiasm for new projects	1 2 3 4 5	Reliable	1 2 3 4 5
Desire to grow and learn	1 2 3 4 5	Leader	1 2 3 4 5
Acceptable appearance	1 2 3 4 5	Self-motivated	1 2 3 4 5
Is he/she able to take the initiative on projects	1 2 3 4 5	Works well independently	1 2 3 4 5
Cooperate with peers	1 2 3 4 5	Works well with children	1 2 3 4 5
Accept rules	1 2 3 4 5	Works well with adults	1 2 3 4 5
Show a willingness to follow directions	1 2 3 4 5	Works well with peers	1 2 3 4 5
Able to accept criticism	1 2 3 4 5		

Additional Comments:

Please Circle One: I (DO) (DO NOT) recommend this teen for participation in the ZooTeen Volunteer Program.

Signature _____ Date _____