

THE ZOO
IN FOREST PARK &
EDUCATION CENTER

Forest Park Zoological Society Post Office Box 80295 Springfield, MA 01138-0295

The Zoo in Forest Park Internship Program

The Internship Program at the Zoo in Forest Park provides an array of possibilities for college students to acquire hands-on experience working with exotic and indigenous animal species. We provide opportunities to conduct research and field studies, and give practical experience in developing communication and teaching skills. Zoo interns work with our administrative and education staff, the animal care team, adult volunteers, and junior zookeepers. Our educational staff works closely with interns and professors to develop research projects or goals that will satisfy degree requirements.

Animal Care:

Animal care interns work in many aspects of the zoo including: feeding and monitoring behavior of the animals, cleaning enclosures, exhibit re-design, and providing enrichment opportunities on a daily basis. Interns may also gain experience about animal nutrition by working with our dieticians. The ability to work both in a team, and independently is a must for this area of the zoo. Some heavy lifting is also required.



Education:



Education interns may conduct Zoo on the Go Outreach Programs, intern as a camp counselor in our Zoo Camp Program, or conduct workshops in collaboration with our education team members. Zoo on the Go Outreach Programs are hour long educational presentations that use live animals. Each session provides an opportunity for audience members to touch, and observe the animals, & ask questions. Some public speaking skills are needed, as well as, experience working with children.

Communications:

There are also internships available in other areas of the zoo like: grant writing, video production, photography, marketing and development. Some interns may incorporate guest feedback into their project by creating, conducting, & analyzing visitor surveys. Individual fields of interest and the exploration of original ideas are enthusiastically encouraged and supported.



Application Procedure:

Please complete the application and return it to our Education Office at least four weeks before the start of your school session. *An interview is required before acceptance into the program.* Please contact the Director of Education with any questions or concerns you may have at 413.733.2251 x110 or via email at education@forestparkzoo.com