



Dear Applicant and Parent/Guardian:

The Buffalo Zoo Education Department offers the **Zoo Teen Naturalist Program** for teens aged 15-17 who have a serious interest in animals, animal behavior, conservation and animal-related careers. Each week will include hands-on activities, animal handling, animal interpretation, and special opportunities.

The Zoo Teen Naturalist Program is an in-depth, hands-on experience for those teens serious about pursuing a career in an animal related field. Participants will be learning animal handling, performing a variety of husbandry duties at our “Heritage Farm” exhibit, as well as studying animal behavior and how it relates to training Zoo animals (while trying their hand at training animals) .

The application process is designed to help determine if this program is right for you. It involves answering a few questions about your interests, as well as obtaining a letter of recommendation from a non-family member. We will not be accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis. The Zoo Teen Naturalist Program has very limited space available, as we only accept six participants per session. Preference will be given to those students who have completed the Junior Zoo Teen Naturalist Program. By keeping the group small, we are able to offer a hands-on, internship-like experience for our students. Opportunities are given to the Teen Naturalists that would not be feasible with a larger sized group, such as husbandry duties and animal training sessions with zookeepers. The intimate group size ensures that all participants have ample opportunity for individual attention and one-on-one guidance.

We will be accepting applications through April 29th, 2011, and we will notify applicants on their acceptance during the week of May 16th, 2011 via mail. Upon receipt of your confirmation letter, you will have one week to submit full payment (\$295 members/\$325 non-members) to the Buffalo Zoo Education Department. We accept cash, check, Mastercard, Visa and Discover. It is important to note that **PRIOR** to the start of the program, the Buffalo Zoo must also receive proof of a negative Tuberculosis (TB) test.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Will I be working with exhibit animals during the program?

Yes and no. Although we incorporate a number of special opportunities, animal behavior observations, and hands-on experiences, please note that participants will *not* be feeding, petting, or training exhibit animals. You *will*, however, get the opportunity to work closely with the domesticated animals found in our Delta Sonic “Heritage Farm” exhibit and the smaller animals in our Education Department animal collection.

2. How can I work with other exhibit animals?

If working with animals is your goal, then the Zoo Teen Naturalist Program is a great step. This program has been developed for the teen who has obtained a base of knowledge and experience from the Junior Zoo Teen Naturalist Program, and is mature enough for a more intern-like opportunity. Once you are in college, the opportunities expand even further. We do accept college interns who can assist zookeepers in various areas of the Zoo.

3. Why do I need to have a TB (tuberculosis) test?

Tuberculosis testing is required. As a standard procedure, all zoo staff members, volunteers, interns, and other individuals who come in close contact with the animals are required to undergo annual testing for TB. Believe it or not some animals can contract TB from humans. Written proof of negative TB test results is required prior to the start of the program.

4. How do I know if I am eligible for this program?

We are looking for individuals who are excited to be part of our program at the Buffalo Zoo! In addition, you should meet the following requirements:

Must be between the ages of 15-17 years old by July 12 or August 2, 2011.

Must have a negative TB test result submitted to the Zoo prior to the start of the program.

Must be interested in animals, conservation, and animal-related careers.

Should be excited to learn more about animals at the Buffalo Zoo through hands-on experiences.

Thank you for your interest in the Zoo Teen Naturalist Program. We look forward to hearing from you!

Mail the completed form and registration fee to:

Education Department

Buffalo Zoo

300 Parkside Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14214-1999



Zoo Teen Naturalist – Application

Application must be received by April 29th, 2011 to be considered for the program.

Application Check List:

- Completed application, including student-answered questions
- Letter of recommendation
- Circle which session you are applying for:
Session 1 (July 12-29) or Session 2 (Aug 2-19)

Only completed application forms with the above check list completed will be considered.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____ Cell () _____

Email _____

Birthday (applicants must be 15 yrs old by July 11 or Aug 2, 2011) _____

Parent/Guardian name(s) _____

Parent/Guardian daytime phone () _____

Did you complete the JUNIOR ZOO TEEN NATURALIST program? yes no

If yes, what year did you complete the program? _____

List other Zoo classes/programs you have participated in: _____

Do you have any medical conditions we should be aware of? Include allergies, asthma, behavioral and physical limitations _____

The following must be completed and signed by a parent or legal guardian:

EMERGENCY INFORMATION – in case of an emergency, CONTACT:

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone () _____ Cell () _____

Alternate Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone () _____ Cell () _____

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND SIGN

In case of emergency or illness (when parent cannot be reached), I hereby give my permission to the Buffalo Zoo to secure treatment for my child (children).

Parent/legal guardian signature _____ Date _____

PHOTOGRAPHY PERMISSION RELEASE

By checking this box, I authorize the Buffalo Zoo to take and use photographs and videotapes of the minor(s) listed above, of whom I am a legal parent/guardian, for purposes of its public relations and advertising activities. I understand that I will receive no compensation for such use.

By checking this box, I DO NOT authorize the Buffalo Zoo to take and use photographs and videotapes of my child for the terms and conditions stated above. I do understand the Buffalo Zoo is not responsible for photographs taken for personal purposed by other participants, staff and volunteers of the Zoo Teen Naturalist Program.

Parent/legal guardian signature _____ Date _____

We want to know more about YOU!

What are your qualities? Please rate yourself on each of the following characteristics (5 means it really describes you, 1 means it does not describe you at all).

I am a conservationist	5	4	3	2	1
I am willing to try new things	5	4	3	2	1
I want to work with animals as a career	5	4	3	2	1
I have experience handling animals	5	4	3	2	1
I am not afraid to get dirty	5	4	3	2	1
I enjoy teaching and sharing information with other children and adults.	5	4	3	2	1

Please tell us about clubs or organizations you belong to (include school and non-school involvement) _____

List any hobbies or special interests you have _____

Please tell us about any experience you have working with or handling animals (jobs, volunteering, pets, etc.) _____

Why do you want to be a Zoo Teen Naturalist and what do you expect to gain from the program? _____

