

Zoo Teen 2020-2021 Important Information

Thank you for your interest in the Zoo Teen Program at the Tulsa Zoo! The program is a unique year-round mentorship opportunity for teens interested in animals, the environment, and zoo careers. Teens expand their knowledge on these topics while developing leadership skills, responsibility, and work ethic. Teens also have FUN while working alongside and building relationships with peers who share their similar interests.

The program is by invitation only, and space is extremely limited; typically, about 15 spots are offered each year. Zoo Teens are required to purchase two t-shirts and a name badge as well as provide proof of negative Tuberculosis testing. There are no other fees to participate in the program. During their first year, teens work in various areas of the Education Department. This includes assisting in the Cox Nature Exchange, helping provide care for the Tulsa Zoo Ambassador Animal Collection, educating guests on zoo grounds, and participating as a summer camp aid. As teens progress through the program, they are able to serve as zookeeper aids in various animal departments throughout the zoo.

Teens interested in the program must meet the following criteria:

- Must be entering 8th through 12th grade the 2020-2021 school year.
- First time applicants must attend one Zoo Teen information meeting. There will be three sessions offered (March 7th, 14th, and 26th).
 - Applicants who have applied for the program in the past are not required to attend the information meeting.
- Must be able to attend all 3 training dates (May 9th, 16th, and 23rd).
- Must be able to work two days per week in the summer.
 - Teens will be scheduled for a maximum of three days per week, except when scheduled as a camp aid.
 - In order to qualify to move up in the program, teens must complete 100 hours during the summer.
- Must be able to work at least one week, Monday – Friday, as a camp aid in the summer. Most Zoo Teens in their Rookie year will do two weeks of summer camp.
- In order to qualify to move up in the program, teens must complete 20 hours during the offseason (September to April).
 - Teens can fulfill these hours by working on weekends, during special events, and as a camp aid during spring break.

Please keep pages 1-2 of this document for your personal reference. Any questions concerning the criteria listed above can be directed to Kaylyn Paulsen, Education Supervisor, at kpaulsen@tulsazoo.org or (918) 669-6221.

Dates and Deadlines

March 2020	
Saturday, March 7 th	Zoo Teen Information Meeting; 3:00 pm, Helmerich Discovery Center
Saturday, March 14 th	Zoo Teen Information Meeting; 3:00 pm, Helmerich Discovery Center
Thursday, March 26 th	Zoo Teen Information Meeting; 6:30 pm, Helmerich Discovery Center
Tuesday, March 31 st	Applications Due. Must be in hand by 4:45 pm. No late applications will be accepted!
April 2020	
Saturday, April 4 th	Interview offered for select applicants
Saturday, April 11 th	In-person interviews; Time TBD, Helmerich Discovery Center
Sunday, April 19 th	In-person interviews; Time TBD, Helmerich Discovery Center
Friday, April 24 th	Select interviewees offered placement into the program
Tuesday, April 28 th	Deadline to accept offer into the program
May 2020	
Saturday, May 9 th	Zoo Teen training; Time TBD, Helmerich Discovery Center
Saturday, May 16 th	Zoo Teen training; Time TBD, Helmerich Discovery Center
Saturday, May 23 rd	Zoo Teen training; Time TBD, Helmerich Discovery Center

Zoo Teen Application 2020

Please keep pages 1-2 of this document for personal reference. Page 3-7, in addition to the Teacher Letter of Recommendation on page 8, should be submitted by the applicant no later than March 31st at 4:45 pm.

It is imperative that teens applying for the program meet the following criteria:

- Must be entering 8th through 12th grade the 2020-2021 school year.
- First time applicants must attend one Zoo Teen information meeting. There will be three sessions offered (March 7th, 14th, and 26th).
 - Applicants who have applied for the program in the past are not required to attend the information meeting.
- Must be able to attend all 3 training dates (May 9th, 16th, and 23rd).
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- In order to qualify to move up in the program, teens must complete 20 hours during the offseason (September to April).
 - Teens can fulfill these hours by working on weekends, during special events, and as a camp aid during spring break.

I understand that in order to be considered for and if accepted into the program, I am expected meet the requirements listed above. Failure to do so will result in applicant to be disqualified from consideration or expelled from the Zoo Teen Program.

Applicant Signature

Date

Guardian Signature

Date

Instructions

Please print out and handwrite with an ink pen. The application is to be completed by the applicant, and the application must be submitted in its entirety (pages 3-7) by the deadline or it will not be accepted; all parts of the application, including the Teacher Letter of Recommendation (page 8), must be submitted together. The Teacher Letter of Recommendation (page 8) must be completed and signed by a teacher the teen has had within the past two years. The teacher should seal the recommendation in an envelope, and sign over the seal.

Applications will be reviewed and scored. Applicants with the highest scores will be invited for an in-person interview.

Completed applications may be turned in at the Information Window located at the entrance of the zoo, or they may be mailed to the following address:

Tulsa Zoo
Attn: Kaylyn Paulsen, Education
6421 E 36th St N
Tulsa, Ok 74115

Applications must be in hand by Tuesday, March 31st, at 4:45 pm. Late applications will not be considered.

Applicant Information

Full Name _____ Preferred Name _____

DOB _____ Current Grade _____ Current School _____

Primary Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

Email _____ T Shirt Size _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

How did you learn about the Zoo Teen program? _____

Have you previously applied for the Zoo Teen program? If so, what year(s)? _____

Emergency Contact

Name _____ Relationship _____

Primary Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

Availability

Please circle the days of the week that you PREFER to work:

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Please circle any days that you CANNOT work:

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Are there any dates that you plan on being unavailable this summer? **YES** **NO**

If yes, please list those dates below:

Questions

Please answer the following questions by hand with an ink pen. If more space is needed, answers should be handwritten in ink on a separate sheet of paper and submitted with the rest of the application.

1. Why do you want to be a Zoo Teen at the Tulsa Zoo?

2. Name two positive and two negative traits about yourself. Why did you choose these traits?

3. Name one topic you are passionate about that you enjoy educating others on. Why is this important to you?

4. What animal do you feel you relate to most? Why?

5. Name three reasons why you think zoos are important. Explain why you chose these three things.

6. What would you like to achieve by participating in the Zoo Teen program?

7. Why should we select you to be in the Zoo Teen program? Please provide at least two reasons.

8. I understand that being a zoo teen is an active position that involves working in hot and humid conditions and spending extended amounts of time outside.

YES

NO

9. I understand that zoo teens are expected to work at least two days per week in the summer as well as work at least one full week as a camp aid.

YES

NO

10. I understand that zoo teens must work 20 hours during the off season (between September and April) to be eligible to move up in the program.

YES

NO

Applicant Signature

Date

Guardian Signature

Date

Zoo Teen 2019 Teacher Recommendation

Instructions: Teacher Recommendation must be from a teacher the teen has had within the last two years. If homeschooled, please have a non-related adult complete. Teacher should place the letter in an envelope, seal the envelope, sign over the seal and return to the applicant.

Name of Applicant _____

Name of Recommender _____ Subject/Grade _____

1	2	3	4	5
Poor	Below Average	Average	Good	Very Good

Using the scale found above, please rate the following items:

Maturity	1	2	3	4	5
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5
Work Ethic	1	2	3	4	5
Self Confidence	1	2	3	4	5
Initiative	1	2	3	4	5
Overall	1	2	3	4	5

What are the first three words that come to mind to describe this student?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Please provide additional comments about the student.

Signature _____ Date _____