



Zoo Keeper Aide

Description: As a Zoo Keeper Aide, you will be working with our Animal Staff and General Curator to assist in the daily husbandry of our animals.

Responsibilities: Zoo Keeper Aides will be responsible for assisting with the day-to-day care of our animal collection. Candidates in this program will clean animal habitats, assist in the formulating and distribution of animal diets, support the keeper to whom you are assigned with creating and distributing animal enrichment, and performing other tasks in the area as needed. The areas to which the volunteer is assigned will be based on a tier system as outlined below.

Note: This position will not have direct animal contact.

Advancement to higher levels will be based on attendance, work ethic, attitude, and successful completion of written exams.

Level I: Prior to beginning the first level, the volunteer must complete 80 logged hours in the commissary, passed the level I written exam, and be recommended by their supervisor. Level I volunteers will work in pre-chosen animal positions under an animal department supervisor. This level requires a minimum of 400 completed volunteer hours, successful completion of written exam (with a score of 85% or higher), and an animal department supervisor recommendation to qualify for advancement to the Volunteer II level.

Level II: Level II volunteers are able to begin this level after successfully passing level I qualifications. Volunteers are able to perform more advanced work in animal positions under the assigned animal department supervisor. A minimum of 800 completed hours, successful completion of a written exam (with a score of 85% or higher), and an animal department supervisor recommendation required to qualify for advancement to the next level.

Level III: Level III volunteers will have the opportunity to perform the most advanced volunteer keeper work under the assigned animal department supervisor. To maintain this highest level, a yearly evaluation (based upon each individual's anniversary date) will be held in which a written exam must be passed and written recommendation from a supervisor will be required.

Training: Completion of the one-day volunteer orientation program. Completion of 80 hours in

the commissary. On-the-job training by department.

Time Commitment: Minimum of 16 hours per month (ideally two 8-hour days).

Qualifications: Must be 18 years of age or older, exhibit strong attention to detail, enjoy working in a team-based environment, and have a positive attitude. Must have volunteered 80 hours as a Commissary Aide and be recommended by the General Curator. Volunteer must be able to follow all supervisory and safety policies. Candidate must show proof of a negative TB test. This is a physical position in which the volunteer must be able to work outdoors year round, lift up to 50 pounds, pull hoses and use tools including, but not limited to: rakes, shovels, wheel barrels, hedge clippers, etc. This position will work outdoors. If in school, must show proof of a 2.75 GPA or higher. **Most importantly, the volunteer must understand and fully respect the dangerous and potentially fatal nature of wild animals.** *Note: This position will not have direct contact with animals.*

Benefits: In addition to the general volunteer benefits from the Naples Zoo, this position allows you to care for rare and exotic animals. You will gain hands-on knowledge of what it takes to be a zoo keeper and about the nutrition, housing, and health requirements that it takes to care for exotic animals. After a level is passed, a letter and certificate of advancement will be awarded. This program provides applicable experience working with animals; therefore school-aged candidates interested in a potential career in zoo keeping are encouraged to apply.