



Animal Care Internship Position Description

Position Title: Animal Care Intern

Supervised By: Lead Zookeeper, Animal Care Department Staff

Dates:

Summer: Mid-May through August (application deadline April 1)

Fall: Mid-September through December (application deadline August 1)

Spring: Mid-January through April (application deadline December 1)

Time Commitment: Minimum of 20 hours per week with weekday and weekend shifts. Internships are unpaid. College credit may be earned upon request; email eperala@lszoo.org for more details.

Overview: The Lake Superior Zoo cares for over 300 animals of a variety of taxa. Animal care interns work primarily with our ambassador animals (reptiles, birds, small mammals, etc.), Australian animals, nocturnal animals, and/or domestic hoofstock, while also having opportunities to learn about primates and large carnivores. Interns will assist animal care staff in a variety of tasks including basic husbandry and cleaning, diet preparation, enrichment, and keeper chats. The Lake Superior Zoo expects motivated and passionate interns that promote our mission to “inspire connections to wildlife and action towards conservation in our region and around the world.”

Learning Opportunities and Responsibilities:

- Best practices in animal welfare
- Cleaning animal enclosures and holding areas
- Diet preparation and distribution with general nutrition
- Environmental enrichment and its role in animal management
- Guest interaction and education
- Observation skills and proper animal handling and/or interaction
- Orientation to daily recordkeeping and medical care
- Overview of positive reinforcement training and its application

Qualifications:

- Currently enrolled or recently graduated in a degree program in biology or a related field
- Comfortable with public speaking
- Comfortable working with people of all ages, abilities, and cultures
- Dependable, cooperative, and self-motivated
- A negative TB test is required before beginning the internship

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment characteristics described here are representative of those an intern encounters while performing the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this internship, the intern is regularly exposed to outdoor weather conditions, and occasionally exposed to adverse environmental conditions such as dirt, dust, pollen, odors, fumes, temperature and noise extremes, toxic agents, disease, pathogenic substances, airborne particles, and animal waste. The intern is frequently in direct contact with exotic animals and is occasionally exposed to work near moving mechanical parts; and work in high, precarious places, and in close quarters. The noise level in the work environment varies. Occasional loud noises from visitors, animals or equipment are experienced.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an intern to successfully perform the essential functions of this position. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

While performing the duties of this internship, the intern is regularly required to stand; walk, reach with hands and arms, use hand to finger, handle, or feel, and talk or hear. The intern is occasionally required to sit, climb or balance; stoop, kneel, bend, crouch, or crawl. The intern must be able to lift and move up to 50 pounds. Specific vision abilities required by this job include close, distance, and peripheral vision, depth perception and the ability to adjust focus. Evaluating animal health, diet, or environment requires hearing and smell. Interaction with staff, guests, and animals requires talking and hearing.