



Racine Zoo Volunteen Program

This volunteer program is designed for young adults who are at least thirteen years old through age seventeen. Candidates for the Volunteen program are selected after an interview process that is conducted each spring. The number of positions available varies each year depending on the number of vacancies.

To be a Racine Zoo Volunteen, you must be a dedicated, mature, and responsible individual. All Volunteens will go through a prescheduled training session. There is a \$75 training fee that is used to purchase Volunteen nametags, t-shirts, required training materials, and a background check. It is the Racine Zoo's policy that any volunteer or staff member working with children must have a background check on record. During the summer months, Volunteens must work at least one two hour shift per week. During the winter, Volunteen hours are very limited and we will do our best to accommodate all Volunteens, but it is expected that Volunteens work at least two hours per month. The Racine Zoo Volunteen program is divided into levels that are described below. Please remember promotions to higher levels are based not only on the number of hours completed but also on an individual basis. Some Volunteens may be required to complete more hours in certain areas.

Level 1

*Level 1 Volunteens will work with Racine Zoo docents and staff to enhance the experience of zoo patrons. They will assist with Discovery Center and artifact cart interpretation, as well as education special events. After 15 hours are completed at this level, Volunteens will be able to work as counselor's assistants with Zoo Summer Camp staff. A minimum of 50 hours is required at this level to proceed to the next level.

Level 2

*Level 2 Volunteens will work as program assistants with the Racine Zoo docents and staff. Volunteen shift opportunities will be available with Support Services in the Jungle Grill and Zootique, as well as in Animal Welfare with diet preparations. They will also have the option of helping conduct education programs with the Conservation Education staff. Volunteens at this level will also be scheduled for Level 1 duties. 150 total hours are required to proceed to Level 3.

Level 3

* Level 3 Volunteens will work all Level 1 and Level 2 areas, as well as gain the opportunity to work more directly with some of the animals. Shifts in this level include cleaning animal exhibits and handling some of the education animal ambassadors as well as other advanced public speaking opportunities.

To apply to the Volunteer Program:

Complete the attached application and return it to us by May 1 along with one letter of recommendation from a teacher on school letterhead and a paragraph written by you that explains why you want to be a Zoo Volunteer. Be sure to use your own words. Your recommendation and paragraph must be attached to your application.

We do not have enough opportunities to accommodate all who want to volunteer. However, we do keep a waiting list and many are brought into the program at a later date. We do not accept applications after May 1. Please be sure your application with all required materials reaches us on time. You can expect to hear back from us via email by May 8 if you have been selected for an interview. Group interviews will be held Saturday, May 17.

If you are ready to make new friends, learn more about the Zoo and its animal inhabitants, and educate our many guests, we want to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Anna Hill

Conservation Education Specialist