

Title: Animal Shows Internship

Description and expectations:

This is ideal for candidates who are interested in the educational side of Zoo work. There will be opportunities to learn about informal & formal interpretation, how to effectively incorporate live animals into a program, how to maintain control of a wild animal while also educating your audience, and more! Interns will work closely with our Show Staff during our formal presentations and care of show animals. Interns will work with keepers, assisting in the daily husbandry of most show animals, including enrichment activities and observing operant conditioning training sessions. They will also be exposed to routine daily record keeping practices as well as have the opportunity to observe veterinary procedures, when possible. Other duties will include routine animal observations, reporting any concerns to the keepers on duty, and other tasks as assigned.

Interns will be expected and required to interact with a diverse team of animal programs staff, interns, volunteers and guests. Interns will be expected to follow the directions of paid staff for their personal safety and safety/care of all animals. Interns will be expected to work irregular schedules including weekends and holidays if applicable during placement. This internship is a physically demanding experience and will require intermediate levels of strength and flexibility as well as the ability to work outdoors in all types of weather conditions. No interns at this time will be working with the carnivores or venomous reptiles.

Responsibilities

❖ **Animal Shows:**

- Animal Care of show animals: daily husbandry, exhibit maintenance, diet/enrichment preparation, record keeping, training, animal observations, and animal handling
- Set-up and planning for Zoo shows, both public and private, this includes animals, any needed props, and AV equipment
- Run AV equipment during Safari Canyon Shows

- ❖ Interactions: informal and formal interactions with Zoo guests specifically to forge connections between our mission, our guests, and our animals
- ❖ Project/Journal: All interns are required to complete an experiential journal and an observation based research project or other deliverable as determined by internship area
- ❖ Research: Become familiar with Species Survival Plans (SSP), as well as natural history, current research and conservation studies related to animals in area of internship
- ❖ Other related duties as assigned

Requirements

- ❖ Minimum 1 year of college with 2.5/4.0 overall GPA.
- ❖ Proof of recent tetanus shot (within last 5 years) and negative TB test (within last year) required **PRIOR** to start date.
- ❖ Must submit to drug testing prior to start of internship and prove clear throughout internship
- ❖ Must have customer service/guest interaction experience, preferred experience with public speaking
- ❖ Ability to lift up to 50 pounds

Notes:

Interns will be evaluated regularly on performance and knowledge.

Naples Zoo reserves the right to dismiss an individual from the keeper internship at any point during the internship.

Wages All Naples Zoo Internships are Unpaid