



Zoo Camp Counselor Position Description

Position Title: Zoo Camp Counselor

Reports to: *Henry Vilas Zoological Society* Conservation Education Manager and Henry Vilas

Zoo Conservation Education Curator

Summary of Duties: Counselors are the core of Summer Zoo Camp. Counselors bring the group together, ensure the safety of campers, and make sure their experience is top-notch and exceedingly fun. Counselors also assist Camp Interns in the delivery of activities and facilitate learning for campers. Counselors should love leading games and team-building activities, singing songs, putting on skits, and be energetic and organized. Counselors should be prepared to learn about current education methods for child-led science investigations and be able to let children make discoveries for themselves. A love for children is essential and an interest in animals is important. You'll get to go behind-the-scenes and meet animals up-close daily, although you will not be handling animals yourself.

Distinguishing Features: Counselors help to implement the Zoo's educational programming by facilitating team-building and fun activities for campers. Must be comfortable upholding Zoo Camp's behavior policy, with support from camp management. Must be willing to learn and support the vision of the Education Department and the Henry Vilas Zoo and Henry Vilas Park Zoological Society. Must be willing to interact with and lead teen volunteers. Must show respect equally for all animal species. Must be punctual and reliable.

The hours are from 7:45 am - 3:45 pm Monday - Friday during nine weeks of summer.

Examples of Duties: The wide variety of duties includes leading games, songs, choice time activities and helping instructors with science-based inquiry activities. Assist instructors with child management. Effectively communicate with parents. Maintain a clean classroom space and spot-check and lightly clean bathrooms. Set up area for drop-off/pick-up, including registration sheets. When needed, positively interact with zoo guests out on zoo grounds. Assist with the preparation and delivery of camp programs. Supervise camper lunch (you will get your own lunch break) and time at the beach or playgrounds.

Experience Required

Qualifications: Counselors must have an appreciation for science education and a commitment to conservation and working with kids and animals. A background in science, education or psychology is a plus. High school diploma required. Previous experience working with kids is preferred, especially in a camp setting. Must have CPR and First Aid training or be willing to get it before camp starts.

Must be available for paid training on June 5th, 6th, and 7th from 9:30 - 4:00 pm. You will also work an additional nine weeks of camp during the summer. We only have camp on Monday and Tuesday the week of the 4th of July and you will have the rest of that week off. There is some flexibility in which other week you will be off between June 10th and August 30th.

Physical Requirements: Strength to perform average lifting of less than 5 pounds and occasionally over 15 pounds; body agility and equilibrium for activities including touring and games; back and leg coordination for activities involving stooping, kneeling, and crouching. Zoo Camp requires daily walks (a minimum of 20 - 30 minutes) through the Zoo and may walk 2 or more miles per day. Must be comfortable in extreme temperatures and rain as our camps are outdoors as much as possible.

Further Comments

Must be available for training on June 5th - 7th and for nine weeks of summer camp between June 10th and August 30th, 2019.

Salary

\$10 per hour

How to Apply

How to Apply: Interested individuals who meet the minimum requirements should email a cover letter and resume to education@vilaszoo.org.

Application Deadline: Ongoing. Applications materials will begin to be reviewed in February, 2019. Filing period may close at any time it is deemed a sufficient number of applications have been received.

Based on the number of responses received, the Henry Vilas Zoo and Henry Vilas Park Zoological Society reserves the right to pre-screen all resumes in order to arrive at a more manageable candidate pool.

Interviews are tentatively scheduled for late February or early March. Interviews are in-person only.

Education Department

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