

Nashville Zoo

Animal Care Internship

NASHVILLE ZOO PAID INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ANIMAL CARE INTERNSHIP | Fall 2026

Overview:

Animal Care Interns will be placed in one of the following areas Aquatics, Avian, Behavioral Husbandry, Carnivore, Contact Areas, Herpetology, Hoofstock, Lorikeets, or Primates. Applicants may indicate preference of department, but final placement is assigned by the Zoo.

Interns will observe a variety of species across the Zoo, assist with daily care routines, and collect data that will help animal care professionals make evidence-based decisions regarding the animals' well-being.

TIME COMMITMENT: This is a full-time position, 30-40 hours a week, for ~12 weeks. There are no opportunities to work overtime.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Assist with daily husbandry care, including cleaning habitats, managing diets, and assisting with enrichment and training.

Monitor animal health and behavior and report observations to animal care staff.

Prepare diets and assist in feeding routines for select species under supervision.

Maintain accurate records related to animal care and observations.

Support zoo staff with habitat and facility maintenance, ensuring clean and safe environments for the animals.

Engage in hands-on learning experiences, including enrichment design, training sessions, and animal handling (as appropriate for the species).

Answer visitors' questions about animals and the Zoo, helping to educate the public on conservation efforts

Complete one project highlighting intern's interest and take aways from the experience and benefitting intern's department

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS:

Must be at least 18 years of age

Must have the ability to stand on feet for long periods and lift moderately heavy loads

Interest in working with animals and understanding animal behavior

This is an entry level position for those looking to gain experience in this field

Excellent communication and organizational skills

Willingness to learn about Nashville Zoo amenities, layout, operations, animal collection and conservation efforts

Must be able to lift up to 50 pounds

Must be able to work outdoors in all seasons and weather conditions.

INTERN TRAINING:

All interns will be present for New Hire Orientation, Animal Care Orientation, Education Orientation, and a 4 presentation professional development series throughout the course of their internship.

BENEFITS:

Hourly rate of \$12.50 per hour for up to 40 hours per week

\$700 living stipend for each 12-week term

Housing provided if outside of a 40 mile radius of Nashville Zoo

Provides opportunities to learn proper management of animals in human care

Observe and participate in husbandry, training, and additional care for our resident animals

Receive first-hand experience in an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institution

Professional development series highlighting topics such as guest engagement, resume building, etc.

Pre-Employment Requirements:

- Submit to a criminal background check and drug screening.
- Provide proof of a negative TB test.
- Provide proof of a valid driver's license.

APPLICATION PROCESS – Interested candidates should complete the application [HERE](#) and attach the following documents:

Resume

Cover Letter

(2) Letters of Recommendation

Additionally, we ask you to complete this anonymous [survey](#).

Salary

12.50/ hour

How to Apply

<https://grnh.se/7fv7mipa8us>