



# ANIMAL CARE INTERNSHIP

The Jackson Zoo offers internship opportunities for college students pursuing careers in animal care. Our program emphasizes animal awareness, conservation, and research, providing valuable hands-on experience. Please note that all internships are unpaid and available for college credit in animal-related fields, as well as in education, special events, conservation, and media/graphic design.

## **Internship Details:**

- This is an experience-based, unpaid internship.
- Internships are available only for students earning college credit.
- Housing and transportation are not provided.
- Two (2) weeks Internship cycle.
- Work schedule: Sunday–Saturday (Scheduling is flexible)
- 8-hour shift: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (1-hour lunch break)
- 4-hour shift: 7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. / 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (30-minute lunch break)

## **Requirements:**

- Must be at least 18 years old and currently enrolled in a college or university.
- Must have completed at least 15 semester hours or quarter hours of college coursework.
- Must obtain professor and/or institution approval for full college credit through an accredited college or as part of an independent study program.
- Must complete internship orientation.
- Must complete a minimum of 20 hours per internship cycle.
- Must be available for 4-hour or 8-hour shifts on assigned days. Weekends and holidays included.
- Must complete a project and present findings at the end of the internship.
- Must be able to work safely, quietly, and efficiently around live animals.
- Must provide proof of a negative TB test, provide proof of current medical insurance for the duration of the internship and submit to a background check.
- Must be comfortable working in various weather conditions, including heat, humidity, rain, cold, and dust.
- Must be able to perform physically demanding tasks, such as walking, bending, pushing, pulling, and lifting heavy objects.

## **Internship Responsibilities:**

Interns will participate in various aspects of animal care, including but not limited to:

- Maintaining and cleaning animal exhibits and holding areas.
- Preparing animal diets.
- Observing and recording animal conditions, behaviors, and responses.
- Engaging in positive and educational interactions with zoo visitors.
- Assisting with animal enrichment activities.
- Observing operant conditioning.
- Assisting in conservation and sustainability planning.
- Developing conservation activities for zoo events.
- Planning and organizing new animal awareness days.
- Researching and developing sustainable and green practices.
- Leading and supervising student volunteer groups in conservation activities.

*The Jackson Zoo is an Equal Opportunity Employer.*

**Qualifications:**

- Must be actively enrolled in college or a recent graduate (within one year).
- Must have strong written and oral communication skills.
- Must be highly organized and detail-oriented.
- Must be able to interact professionally with various individuals, including volunteers and zoo staff.
- Preference will be given to students pursuing degrees related to the internship.
- Must demonstrate a passion for conservation, sustainability, and wildlife.
- Must be able to work collaboratively within a team setting.

**How to Apply:**

Complete online internship application ([thejacksonzoo.org](http://thejacksonzoo.org)) and submit a resume with a cover letter with your current contact information to [info@thejacksonzoo.org](mailto:info@thejacksonzoo.org) using "Animal Care Internship" in the subject line.

Contact us for additional information at 601-952-8776.