

To whom it may concern:

The Education Department at the Amarillo Zoo serves visitors in many different and important ways. In order to reach all of these visitors, we need as many quality volunteers as possible to present animals. We are offering a very special experience for college students to come to work as an intern. Below is all the information you will need in order to present our program to any students with interest.

Education Intern

The opportunity to present live animals for the visitors to touch as well as educate them about all aspects of each animal. We are currently working on new programs that would involve using live animals in school/group presentations, interactive discovery stations as well as camp programs. The volunteer would also experience feeding, cleaning, diet preparation and daily maintenance of all education animals. Most of the time they will be the only volunteer or staff member that the visitor will see.

This position does not require any prior knowledge of handling animals. We prefer interns that are students in a field, which will benefit from this program, such as Biology, Pre-Veterinary Medicine, Education, Psychology or Communications. This is strictly a volunteer position and requires at least a 4-hour a week commitment. Should you require your student to commit to more than 4 hours a week in order to obtain credit, we can always use the help. Below are the qualifications that we are looking for in an Education Intern. Applicants may also apply for this position as strictly a volunteer for experience without receiving credit.

- Has an interest in educating the public about exotic and domestic animals
- Ability to present in front of large crowds
- Willing to work outside in hot or cold weather and get dirty
- Willing to learn to handle ALL types of animals (see attached list)
- Able to work at least one 4 hour shift anytime from Tuesday – Saturday 9:30am – 4pm

Interns selected are required to attend animal handling training before being able to handle animals. They are also required to show proof of a current negative TB test. Once, they are trained, they will be able to handle beginner animals first and then can work their way up to advanced after completing a certification. Attached you will see the list of all the animals available for Education programming, and an application for Internship, as well as a brief explanation to the program that you can post. Please post or mention this to all candidates and have them email the application as soon as possible to the email address below. Please call or email should you have any questions. We believe this program would be a great opportunity for any student studying biology or education. Not only will they learn about a diverse group of animals, but also have actual hands on husbandry experience.

Sincerely,

Mike Boley
Visitor Services Coordinator
Amarillo ZOO
PO Box 1971
Amarillo, Texas 79105
(806) 381-7911

Amarillo Zoo Education Intern Application

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Professor name and contact info:

Please explain your interest in becoming a zoo education intern

Please list any experiences you have had teaching or working with children.

****** Please return your application via email to mike.boleyn@ci.amarillo.tx.us fax to 806-381-7901. All applications being submitted for college credit should include a written letter from your professor**

Education Animals

Invertebrates

Giant Brazilian Cockroaches
Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches
Giant Vinagaroon/Whipscorpions
Mexican Red Knee tarantulas
Texas Gold Millipedes

Mammals

Armadillo
Many types of rabbits
African Hedgehog
Norway Rats
Chinchilla
Domestic Ferret
Guinea Pig

Reptiles

Western Hognose Snake
California Kingsnake
Burmese Python
Rainbow Boa
Ball Python
Rosy Boa
Common Boa
European Glass Lizard
Gulf Coast Box Turtles
Ornate Box Turtles
Blue Tongued Skink
Leopard Gecko
Common Green Iguana
Kenyan Sand Boa
Uyromastx

Amphibians

Giant Marine Toads
Argentinean Horned Frog
Green and Black Dart Frogs

Birds

Yellow Headed Amazon
Mitre Conure
Sulfur Crested Cockatoo
Moluccan Cockatoo

Intern Agreement

The Volunteer Agreement is intended to indicate the seriousness with which we treat our interns

The Amarillo Zoo, upon accepting the services of an intern, commits to the following:

- To provide adequate information, training, and assistance to the volunteer so that he or she will be able to meet the responsibilities of the position.
- To insure diligent supervisory aid to the volunteer and to provide feedback on performance.
- To respect the skills, dignity, and individual needs of the volunteer
- To be receptive to any comments from the volunteer regarding ways in which we might better accomplish our respective tasks.
- To treat the volunteer as an equal partner with agency staff, jointly responsible for completion of the agency mission.

By signing the Volunteer Agreement, the new volunteer commits to the following:

- To perform his or her duties to the best of his or her ability.
- To adhere to agency rules and procedures, including record keeping requirements and confidentiality of agency and client information
- To meet time and duty commitments or to provide adequate notice so that alternate arrangements can be made.

This agreement may be canceled at any time at the discretion of either party.

Volunteer Signature

Date

Zoonotic Disease and Rabies Protocol

Terminology:

Zoonotic Disease- A disease carried by animals that is transmissible to humans

Zoonoses- A zoonotic disease

Pathogen- An organism capable of causing disease

Zoonotic diseases, such as toxoplasmosis, salmonella or tuberculosis can be passed from animals to humans or humans to animals. The best protection against the transmission of zoonotic diseases is cleanliness. All staff and volunteers are required to wash their hands after and before any contact with animals. All animals and people carry microbes on and inside them, but most are not pathogens. Working with animals can and is done safely with knowledge and common sense guidelines.

Amarillo Zoo Staff feels the risk of contracting bacterial zoonotic disease from animal contact at the Zoo is minimal, but a pro-active prevention policy that follows CDC and AZA recommendations would be the best method to ensure the protection of zoo volunteers, staff and visitors. Hand sanitizers are made available to visitors. Volunteers should direct the public to these stations after any animal contact. The Amarillo Zoo staff cannot take direct responsibility for the public's hygiene habits or lack thereof, but it can provide the public with the option to be hygienic and recommend hand washing at animal contact sites.

Keep the following guidelines in mind as you work at the Zoo:

1. Urine, feces, and blood can contain and spread pathogenic organisms to other animals and people.
2. Spoiled feedstuff can contain and spread pathogenic organisms. Never knowingly feed spoiled food to animals.

Basic Hygiene Measures:

1. Washing your hands with soap and water is the key to preventing the transmission of disease causing agents between the animals you care for and you.
2. Wear a clean uniform every time you work a shift. This will prevent excessive build up of material that may carry germs from one place to another.

Working with animals can easily be done in a safe manner with common sense and good hygiene practices. If you have questions about zoonotic diseases or sanitary measures please ask.

Amarillo Zoo Rabies Protocol:

Rabies vaccinations are licensed for use in domestic dogs, domestic cats and ferrets only. No rabies vaccine is licensed for wild animals. Because of the risk of rabies in wild animals (especially raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats) The American Veterinary Medical Association, The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists strongly recommend against keeping wild animals or cross breeds of wild and domestic animals as pets.

- Species considered being high risk for rabies (raccoons, coyotes, skunks, foxes and bats) would be handled by full-time staff only. At no time will volunteers or visitors be allowed to handle or touch high-risk animals.
- Non-native animals in the collection should also be considered as susceptible to rabies as native species, although the risks are lower due to isolation and lack of exposure.
- In the event of a bite, wash the wound immediately with copious amounts of water. Notify Zoo Staff immediately. The course of action to be taken will be determined in consultation between the zoo curator and the physician of the person who was bitten. Depending on the animal, the circumstances and the degree of risk, post-exposure vaccination may be recommended for the person who was bitten. In some cases, euthanasia of the animal may be required to examine the brain for rabies. **NOTE: There is no test that can be administered in the live animal to determine if it is incubating rabies. This factor should be taken into consideration when making the decision to place an animal in a human contact situation.**

I have read and understand this policy:

Signature

Date

**Amarillo Zoo Animal Stress and Safety
Volunteer Agreement**

I, _____ have read and understand the animal stress policy put forth by Amarillo Zoo. By signing this agreement, I agree to adhere to all Animal Handling Policies, especially with regards to animal safety and stress. I understand that failure to comply with this policy may result in suspension or revocation of handling privileges or termination from the program.

Signature

Date

College Intern Checklist

Zoo contact information

Mike Boley

Amarillo Zoo

PO Box 1971

Amarillo, Texas 79109

(806) 381-7911

Proof of current negative TB test before you can begin

Sign and return Volunteer Agreement

Sign and return Zoonotic Disease and Rabies Protocol

Sign and return Animal Stress and Safety Agreement

Sign and return Waiver of Responsibility and Assumption of
Risk

Obtain a packet of Animal Fact Sheets and read as much as
possible before beginning