



# Zoo Teen Volunteer Application

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Application must be received by **May 8, 2015** to be considered for the program.

Binder Park Zoo offers two Zoo Teen Programs each of which strive to provide our Zoo Teen's with a fun, educational and worthwhile summer experience at our zoo. Zoo Teens are required to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours between June and October 2015.

## **JUNIOR ZOOKEEPER PROGRAM:**

Teens that opt for this program will work with our Animal Care Staff and will learn about basic animal husbandry (feeding and cleaning), care and well being of our zoo animals. Teens must be willing to work inside and outside, rain or shine and be willing to get dirty. Must get a current Tuberculin (TB) Skin Test (must be negative and administered within the last year to work with animals) upon acceptance into the program.

### *What qualities do we look for in a Junior Zookeeper?*

- Trustworthy, reliable, and responsible
- Able to present a neat and well-groomed appearance
- Able to accept supervision of adults and ask for assistance when needed
- Courteous to his/her peers, the general public, volunteers and staff
- Willing to learn new skills and get his/her dirty
- Comfortable working with guests of all ages and backgrounds
- Able to demonstrate a positive attitude at all times
- Supportive of Binder Park Zoo's mission

### *What kind of effort is required?*

Junior Zookeepers are required to perform many kinds of physical tasks which may include standing for prolonged periods of time, safe lifting, reaching, bending, climbing, kneeling, shoveling/raking, pushing/pulling objects, and handling/grasping objects.

Much of the work JZKs do takes place outside and in various weather conditions. In addition, many zoo buildings are not air-conditioned and can be uncomfortable and smelly during hot summer months. A Junior Zookeeper must be willing and able to work in these types of environments. Binder Park Zoo will make reasonable accommodations to allow the participation of individuals with physical limitations.

### *Other eligibility requirements*

- Be available to attend an interview, if invited (Dates TBD).
- Be able to attend the mandatory Parent/Participant Orientation (Date TBD; usually early June).
- Be able to donate a minimum of 50 hours over the course of June-October. Have reliable transportation to and from the Zoo.
- Be willing to adhere to all Zoo Teen policies and procedures.
- Obtain a parent/legal guardian's written permission to apply for and participate in the Zoo Teen program.

## **JUNIOR ZOO EDUCATORS PROGRAM:**

Teens that opt for this program will work with our Education Staff helping out with camps, birthday parties, overnights, bio-fact stations and public presentations. Teens need to feel comfortable around children and talking to the public.

### ***What qualities do we look for in a Junior Zoo Educator?***

- Trustworthy, reliable, and responsible
- Able to present a neat and well-groomed appearance
- Able to accept supervision of adults and ask for assistance when needed
- Courteous to his/her peers, the general public, volunteers and staff
- Willing to work with and around children
- Comfortable speaking to guests of all ages and backgrounds
- Able to demonstrate a positive attitude at all times
- Supportive of Binder Park Zoo's mission

### ***What kind of effort is required?***

Junior Zoo Educators are required to perform many kinds of physical tasks which may include standing for prolonged periods of time, safe lifting, reaching, bending, climbing, kneeling, pushing/pulling objects, handling/grasping objects and talking to various guests, camp participants and adult volunteers.

Much of the work JZEs do takes place outside and in various weather conditions. In addition, many of the summer camps spend a great deal of time outdoors walking around zoo grounds. Conditions can be uncomfortable during hot summer months. A Junior Zoo Educator must be willing and able to work in these types of environments. Binder Park Zoo will make reasonable accommodations to allow the participation of individuals with physical limitations.

### ***Other eligibility requirements***

- Be available to attend an interview, if invited (Dates TBD).
- Be able to attend the mandatory Parent/Participant Orientation (Date TBD; usually early June).
- Be able to donate a minimum of 50 hours over the course of June-October. Have reliable transportation to and from the Zoo.
- Be willing to adhere to all Zoo Teen policies and procedures.
- Obtain a parent/legal guardian's written permission to apply for and participate in the Zoo Teen program.

**Please indicate which program you are applying for:**

\_\_\_ **Junior Zoo Keeper** (\$75 program fee; 50 hours required) DO NOT send payment at this time. TB tests can be done after acceptance into the program. Accepts 25 teen volunteers.

\_\_\_ **Junior Zoo Educator** (\$75 program fee; 50 hours required) DO NOT send payment at this time. Accepts 20 teen volunteers.

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**Application Check List**

- Application complete - *filled out by applicant*
- Essay questions complete – *filled out by applicant*
- Copy of current Tetanus (must be within the last 5 years to work around animals)
- Two letters of recommendation from adults that are not related to you.

***Only completed application forms with the above check list completed will be considered.***

***Please do not send program fee with the completed application. It does not guarantee a spot in the program.***

Please send applications to:

Zoo Teen Program - 7400 Division Drive - Battle Creek, MI 49014. By May 8, 2015

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Age June 2015: \_\_\_ Grade Entering Fall of 2015: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt size (**adult**): \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.  
There are no right or wrong answers!**

I care about animals	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I want to learn more about animals	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I want to work with animals	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I want to be around animals	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I don't mind getting dirty or wet	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I like being outdoors	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

I enjoy watching animals	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I'm an observant person	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I enjoy teaching and sharing information	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I feel comfortable around children	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I would do something to help animals even though I may not work directly with them	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I'm not afraid to talk to new people	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
My friends would say I'm outgoing	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I'm willing to try new things	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree

Please list other volunteer programs you are currently involved in:

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Please tell us about some of your hobbies and interests:

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Please tell us what interests you most about volunteering at Binder Park Zoo?

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What do you hope to gain from this experience?

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