



Utah's HOGLE ZOO

VOLUNTEER: ZOO CORPS

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Utah's Hogle Zoo provides volunteers ages 14 -18 the opportunity to broaden and share their knowledge of animals, conservation, and the environment, all while gaining invaluable hands-on experience in a vibrant zoo environment. The UHZ Zoo Corps program is thoughtfully designed to provide individuals with a unique opportunity to delve into the fascinating realms of the animal kingdom, conservation, and zoo professions. By participating, volunteers not only forge new friendships but also cultivate essential personal and professional skills, all while contributing significantly to the enrichment of our zoo guests' visits. Serving as enthusiastic communicators, Zoo Corps volunteers passionately share captivating information about animals and their habitats with zoo visitors. In doing so, they play an indispensable role in championing the conservation and education objectives of UHZ, making each volunteer an integral part of our mission

REPORTS TO: The Education Department

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Zoo Corps members have the opportunity to progress their career advancement and leadership skills through a Path to Championship milestone framework. All new volunteers begin their journey as an Explorer, and through hard work and dedication can advance to become an Advocate, and ultimately, a Wildlife Champion.

Listed below are the essential duties and responsibilities of each volunteer category;

Explorer

Zoo Corps Explorers promote Utah's Hogle Zoo's mission of Creating Champions for Wildlife through guest-engagement interactions. These members provide memorable interactions, activities, and experiences to help guests enjoy their day at the Zoo, while also inspiring community learning and conservation action. Daily tasks for Zoo Corps Explorers may include helping facilitate Giraffe Feeds, carrying out activities, preparing animal diets, and teaching guests about animals using natural artifacts.

Advocate

Zoo Corps Advocates fulfill the duties of Explorers while expanding their role to grow their knowledge and skills. Advocates can engage in additional responsibilities such as;

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facilitating more challenging activities, assisting staff with zoo programs and classes, or helping with office projects.

Champion

Zoo Corps Champions fulfill the responsibilities of Advocates while expanding their role to adopt and embrace new leadership opportunities. Champions are critical to the success of Hogle Zoo's mission through their work of peer mentorship, creative initiatives, program support, and advocacy for animal conservation. Zoo Corps Champions have the opportunity to deepen their perspectives of the natural world and the role of zoos and aquariums in protecting it. Customized experiences drive these members toward their career and personal goals. Requires 1 year of experience.

Counselors in training (C.I.T.)

After a Zoo Corps member has reached the status of Champion, they are eligible to be trained in a new role known as the C.I.T. These counselors in training are volunteers who are trained to be summer camp assistant counselors. In this role, the volunteer will help lead games, facilitate activities and be an all-around summer camp helper.

QUALIFICATIONS

Zoo Corps team members are responsible, dedicated, and enthusiastic youth. As a volunteer, Zoo Corps must genuinely appreciate the natural world and want to educate and engage Zoo guests of all ages. Zoo Corps participants must learn quickly, be approachable and comfortable initiating conversations with guests. The volunteer must be committed to providing our guests with the highest standard of customer service and care. Zoo Corps members are dependable and able to make the minimum commitment of volunteer hours. Because of the nature of working closely to various animals, Zoo Corps volunteers must demonstrate maturity, self-motivation, and have an ability to follow directions and safety protocols.

REQUIREMENTS

- Must be at least 14-17 years of age.
- Must provide proof of a recent negative TB test (required annually).

SCHEDULE AND TIME COMMITMENT

Membership in the Zoo Corps program requires a significant time commitment, not just throughout the summer months.

- The volunteer as well as a parent/guardian must review all Zoo Corps application information and online forms before committing to the program.
- Once accepted into the program, volunteers must be available to attend a mandatory volunteer orientation, volunteer interpretation training, as well as a role specific training session.

- Zoo Corps volunteers are expected to serve a minimum of one consistent shift a week during the summer season and are encouraged to volunteer throughout the year.
- Through the 12-week summer season, volunteers are expected to attend at least eight weeks and to communicate in advance the days they will be absent.

PHYSICAL DEMAND AND SPECIAL WORKING CONDITIONS

This position requires long periods of standing and walking with accommodations. This position requires exposure to the elements such as heat, cold, rain, and snow.

COMPENSATION

All volunteers at Utah's Hogle Zoo are considered non-paid employees. Benefits include discounts on food and merchandise, as well as volunteer recognition events and parties. Additional benefits are provided to volunteers based on the total number of hours the volunteer has worked .

THE VOLUNTEER DEPARTMENT WILL:

- Maintain records for active volunteers.
- Ensure adequate training and supervision is provided.
- Issue all volunteers a uniform shirt and name tag.
- Provide ongoing support and assistance with volunteer/staff relationships.
- Administer volunteer benefits.
- When requested, provide a written reference, including hours of service, tenure, and job description.

TO APPLY

Zoo Corps applications are accepted throughout the year with interviews held annually in April. Please submit an application at <https://www.volgistics.com/appform/124745691> if you are interested in applying for this program. Zoo Corps applicants must submit two letters of recommendation with their application or submit the letters separately to volunteeroffice@hoglezoo.org.

Utah's Hogle Zoo is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive volunteer program representative of a variety of backgrounds, age groups, perspectives, experiences, abilities, and strengths.