



Zoo Teen Program Application

Application must be received, postmarked or faxed by **May 5, 2017** to be considered for the program. *We do not accept applications turned in after the deadline.*

Please send applications to:

Zoo Teen Program - 7400 Division Drive - Battle Creek, MI 49014.

Fax: (269)979-8834 ATTN: Zoo Teen Program

Email: volunteer@binderparkzoo.org

(To email this form, please click the “Fill and Sign” button on the PDF file.)

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.

Binder Park Zoo offers two Zoo Teen Programs each of which strives to provide our Zoo Teens with a fun, educational and worthwhile summer experience at our zoo. Zoo Teens are required to participant a minimum of 40 hours including participating in one of our many special events. Hours are not to exceed over 60 hours, between June and October 2017.

Please indicate which program you are applying for:

____ **Junior Zoo Keeper** \$125 program fee, which includes nametag, Zoo Teen shirt, souvenir cup with free refills during working time, invitation to the yearly Volunteer Appreciation dinner, and an unforgettable experience of a lifetime; 40 hours minimum required which includes helping during one of the Zoo’s Special Events. (Will not exceed 60 hours.) Please do not send payment at this time. TB tests can be done after acceptance into the program. Accepts 30 teen participants.

____ **Junior Zoo Educator** \$125 program fee, which includes nametag, Zoo Teen shirt, souvenir cup with free refills during participant time, invitation to the yearly Volunteer Appreciation dinner, and an unforgettable experience of a lifetime; 40 hours minimum required which includes helping during one of the Zoo’s Special Events. (Will not exceed 60 hours.) Please do not send payment at this time. TB tests can be done after acceptance into the program. Accepts 20 teen participants.

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.

Much of the work JZKs 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.

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 and talking to various guests, camp participants and adult participants. Our Junior Zoo Educators are given the opportunity to be able to experience animal handling training. (If interested in fulfilling the training, it is a requirement to attend at least 6 training sessions.)

Much of the work JZEs 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.

Important Information:

- Qualified applicants will be invited to an onsite interview by letter or email. (Interviews will be scheduled in May).
- Be able to attend the mandatory Parent/Participant Orientation (June 3, 2017 10am-2pm).
- Be able to donate a minimum of 40 hours over the course of June-October. With hours not exceeding 60.
- Be able to provide help during one of our Zoo's Special Events. (Cheetah Chase, Tour De Zoo, Zoo Boo and more)
- 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.
- Must be at least 13 years of age as of June 1, 2017. Must be under the age of 18 as of June 1, 2017.

What qualities do we look for in a Zoo Teen?

- 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, participants and staff
 - Willing to learn new skills and get his/her hands 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
 - Able to stand for prolonged periods of time.
 - Comfortable with safety practices including lifting objects, reaching, bending, climbing, kneeling, pushing/pulling objects, and handling/grasping objects.
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Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Age June 2017: _____ Grade: _____ 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 is no right or wrong answer!

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

