



# Zoo Docent Volunteer Description

## Supervisor

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## Purpose

Docents assist Friends of the Zoo's Conservation Education Department staff in several capacities on the zoo grounds and in the community with outreach programming. These "volunteer teachers" share their knowledge of the zoo and support the zoo's conservation education mission. Docents may be stationed on the zoo grounds to enhance our guests' zoo visit and help make a connection to nature. Docents may also become an educator in our outreach programming for schools and organizations or assist with Z.E.B.R.A. classes.

Adults age 18 and older who are seeking a degree or career with animals or who like working with animals and interacting with people of all ages are invited to join this committed group of volunteers. **No experience is necessary. However, you must be available for the required training.**

## Docent Training

New docents accepted into the program must attend all four evenings of training.

- Four Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m.
- Mondays: March 7, 14, 21 and 28

## Objectives

- Facilitate a positive connection between the zoo and the community.
- Interpret the zoo, conservation and wildlife issues to guests, students and the community.
- Help program participants understand their relationship to the environment.
- Represent the zoo in a positive and professional manner by being courteous, knowledgeable and well-groomed during zoo programs.

## Qualifications and Requirements

- Volunteer applicants must be at least 18 years old.
- All volunteer applicants are required to pass a criminal background check.
- New volunteers in training must pay a \$35 fee, due at first training session. This fee covers one uniform shirt, the initial background check, training materials and ID badge.

- All volunteers must be willing and able to work both indoors and outdoors.
- All volunteers must be willing and able to work with and interact positively with children of varying ages and adults.
- Accepted applicants must be available for and attend orientation and training classes specific to the volunteer position.
- Accepted applicants must successfully complete the required training course(s) and a written test.
- Upon successful completion of the training course, a minimum commitment of one year of service is expected. Required service hours vary and are depicted in the volunteer position descriptions (50 hours per year for Docents).

Additional training will vary with the position, and some Docent positions are limited in availability. Volunteering as a Docent involves walking throughout the zoo grounds, standing for long periods of time, working indoors and outdoors, and other physical tasks appropriate to the event or activity.

### **Uniform**

Volunteers must adhere to the dress code as stated in the Volunteer Manual. The initial \$35 fee covers the cost of one uniform shirt. You may purchase additional shirts if necessary.

### **Applications**

All prospective volunteers must complete a Friends of the Zoo volunteer application. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The information you supply on this application will be used to distinguish you from other applicants and assess your qualifications for available volunteer positions. Completing an application does not secure a volunteer position or guarantee an interview.

Volunteer applications are reviewed once a year. The volunteer application deadline for this year is **March 1, 2016**.

I have read the volunteer position descript, and I have considered all requirements. I am willing and able to fulfill the requirements of the application and training process and the service requirements of a zoo volunteer.

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Printed name

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Signature

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Date