



# Volunteer Application

## Acknowledgement of Understanding

There are a few things you need to know before deciding to take the next steps in joining one of our volunteer teams.

Our adult volunteer programs focus on improving the guest experience and educating the public about different aspects of wildlife conservation. As a zoo volunteer; you will not directly care for, clean after, work with, or handle any of the exhibit animals. Non-paid positions within the animal department are reserved for college interns with declared majors in an animal science or biology related field.

Please take a minute to review the attached volunteer position descriptions for Ambassador (event & guest services volunteer) and Docent (volunteer educator).

You must be available for all training dates and times for the position you are applying for.

### **2019 Ambassador Orientation and Training Schedule:**

Dates will be announced at the open houses.

*\*\*Ambassador trainees must attend 2 training sessions, an orientation and mixer meeting.*

### **2019 Docent Orientation and Training Schedule:**

Monday, February 25	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
Monday, March 4	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
Monday, March 11	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	
Monday, March 18	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	* Docent Meeting
Monday, March 25	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	

*\*\*Docent trainees must attend all four evenings.*

**Requirements for becoming an adult volunteer for Friends of the Zoo:**

- Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
- All applicants are required to pass a criminal background check.
- A fee of \$35 for Docents or \$25 for Ambassadors is required for all trainees, which covers a uniform shirt, ID badge, training materials and a criminal background check.
- All applicants must be willing and able to work both indoors and outdoors.
- All applicants must be willing and able to work with children of varying ages, as well as adults.
- Accepted applicants must be available for and attend orientation and training classes specific to the 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 1 year of service is expected. Required service hours vary and are depicting in the volunteer position descriptions.

**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.

We review applications once per year. The volunteer application deadline is **March 1, 2019**.

I have read the volunteer position descriptions and I have considered all requirements.

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at Dickerson Park Zoo. Volunteers are an important part of the continued success of our zoo!

**Please mark which volunteer program you are applying for:**

Ambassador (Event & Guest Services)

Docent (Conservation Education)

**Personal Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ (Year optional)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_, MO Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s): (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ cell/home/work (\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_ cell/home/work

Best way to contact you? Call:  Text:  Email:

Do you have a valid driver's license? Y  N

Do you have a car available for use while volunteering? Y  N

If no, please explain your mode of reliable transportation while volunteering: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Primary phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you: \_\_\_\_\_

**Education**

College or High School \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_ Degree earned \_\_\_\_\_

Other relevant school or certification(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Employment and Experience** *(If resume is available, please submit with application.)*

Current Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Job Description \_\_\_\_\_

If unemployed:  Retired  Student  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Does your current employer have (check all that apply):

- Grant program for volunteering     Donation matching program     Volunteer program

Volunteer or other relevant experience that may be helpful:

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Position/major responsibility \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Position/major responsibility \_\_\_\_\_

**Interests and Skills**

Why are you interested in volunteering with Dickerson Park Zoo? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you hope or expect to gain from your volunteer experience? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think makes you a good fit for volunteering with us? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any experience working with groups? If yes, please describe, including age groups you've worked with. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any experience with public speaking? If yes, please describe. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any experience instructing or teaching? If yes, please describe. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1 – 10 (with 1 = 'not at all' and 10 = 'love to') how comfortable are you approaching people and engaging them in conversation? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

On a scale of 1 – 10 (with 1 = 'not at all' and 10 = 'love to') how comfortable are you with answering questions or giving directions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mark skills that you possess and are comfortable sharing as a volunteer.

<input type="checkbox"/> Arts & crafts	<input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry/construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash Register/Money
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening/Landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant writing	<input type="checkbox"/> Office and clerical	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizational
<input type="checkbox"/> Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Photography	<input type="checkbox"/> Public speaking
<input type="checkbox"/> Sewing	<input type="checkbox"/> Special events/catering	<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching

**Limitations**

Do you have any physical or mental conditions or required medications that will require accommodation in order to make your volunteer experience successful? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any conditions or restrictions of which we should be aware? \_\_\_\_\_

**References**

List two people, not related to you, who we can contact that will have knowledge of your qualifications. Please provide a phone number and an email address.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Years known \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Years known \_\_\_\_\_

By signing below I understand and orientation and interview must be completed before I am eligible for acceptance to the Friends of the Zoo volunteer program. Furthermore, I agree to follow the policies outlined in the Volunteer Manual. I authorize Dickerson Park Zoo and Friends of the Zoo to take any steps to insure my health in an emergency. I also authorize Friends of the Zoo to use my name and/or photograph for public relations purposes related to the zoo. I also understand volunteers must be 18 years old.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_