



Welcome to Venturing!

The Zoo Venture Crew is a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America. This program is open to males and females who are 13 through 20 years of age and have completed the eighth grade. Venturing at Dickerson Park Zoo will provide fun and enriching experiences to young people by gaining an understanding of the husbandry of exotic animals.

The Venture Crew assists zookeepers with daily animal feedings and exhibit cleaning. In addition, we envision this crew taking on the critical role of implementing the zoo's animal enrichment program. This will include research, development, observation, and data entry. The crew will also hold fundraisers throughout the year to enable the crew to participate in outside activities.

In addition to the support of the local BSA organization, we have an adult committee set up of zoo employees who are invested in making this a great program. Our mission is to provide the youth of our area opportunities in training, animal care, and management by developing individual skills and teamwork while also building character.

Provided on the website is an application and **two** recommendation forms. Please provide each of your references a pre-addressed, stamped envelope and ask for the recommendation to be mailed directly to the zoo. Hand delivered recommendations by the student and/or parent will only be accepted in a sealed envelope with the instructors' signature across the seal. Applications can be mailed in or hand delivered to the zoo office.

Zoo Venture Crew
3043 N. Fort Ave
Springfield, Mo 65803

There will be additional forms/applications to fill out once you have been accepted into the Crew.

If you have any further questions, please email or call April Marler at the zoo hospital 417-874-2402/ amarler@springfieldmo.gov.