



Dear Applicant and Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Thank you for your interest in our ZooTEENS program. Please read the following information before you fill out your application.

ZooTEENS is a volunteer program for 13-17 year olds. The age cut-off date is June 1, so you must be 13 by June 1 and cannot be older than 17 by June 1st. We will have mandatory training on June 7-9, Tuesday through Thursday. The times for training will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you cannot attend the entire training session listed above, please do not apply at this time.

Applications will be accompanied by two sealed recommendations: one from a past or present science teacher, and another from any other unrelated adult. If you are home-schooled, I will accept two recommendations from unrelated adults, but please make a note as to why you do not have a recommendation from a science teacher. The recommendations **MUST** be sealed and signed by the author over the envelope flap.

Also, we will require applicants to attend an Open House session with a parent or guardian. Only one parent or guardian will be allowed to attend due to space limitation. This will be your chance to meet with me and learn about the ZooTEEN experience. The dates and times for the Open House sessions are as follows: March 1, 6-6:45 p.m.; March 10, 6-6:45 p.m.; March 30, 6-6:45 p.m.; April 4, 6-6:45. Please RSVP by phone or e-mail if you will be attending an Open House and leave the name of the applicant and accompanying adult.

As a ZooTEEN, you will have the opportunity to work as a teacher aide for our summer camp ZEBRA classes, interact with guests on grounds by teaching about animals with the use of biofacts such as feathers, fur and bones, help zookeepers with animal observations, and help with animal cleaning/feeding duties in the education building.

We will accept applications and recommendations postmarked by **April 15**. All applicants will be reviewed, and those selected for an interview will be contacted by April 25. Interviews will be scheduled throughout the first half of May. Applicants accepted following the interview will be invited to complete volunteer orientation and training. **Please note that space is VERY limited. On average, we receive about 50 applications, and due to limitations on space, time, and staff, we will only be accepting 6-10 new ZooTEENS in 2022.** Please mail complete application packets to

Friends of the Zoo ZooTEENS Program
Attn: Emily Lansche Katski
3043 N. Fort Ave.
Springfield, MO 65803

If you have any questions or concerns that are not addressed at the orientation, please call or e-mail me.

Sincerely,

Emily Lansche Katski
Education Specialist
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elansche@dickersonparkzoo.org