



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 14-17 year olds. The age cut-off date is June 1, so you must be 14 by June 1 and cannot be older than 17 by June 1st. As a ZooTeen, you will have the opportunity to work as a teacher aide for our summer camps, Wildlife Zooniversity classes, interact with guests on grounds which involves the use of biofacts (such as feathers, fur and bones) to educate the public on important conservation messaging as well as general animal knowledge, help zookeepers with animal observations, and help with animal cleaning/feeding duties in the education building.

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.

All applicants are required 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 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30pm-6:00pm or March 29<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30pm. Please let us know if you cannot attend one of the open houses. You can register for one through our website. Click on the Education tab, then go to Education Calendar. You can then search under the High School tab and click on the Open House event. You can also register by calling the office number: 417-833-1570. Please ask for Bridget in the Education Department.

If you are accepted into the program you must attend the mandatory training on June 3-5 Wednesday through Friday. The times for training will be 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. If you cannot attend the entire training session listed above, please do not apply at this time.

We will accept applications and recommendations postmarked by **April 13**. All applicants will be reviewed, and those selected for an interview will be contacted by April 24. Interviews will be scheduled for the last week of April. Applicants accepted following the interview will be invited to complete volunteer orientation and training. **Please note that space is VERY limited. Turning in an application and getting an interview does not guarantee acceptance into the program.**

Please mail complete application packets to

Friends of the Zoo ZooTeens Program  
Attn: Bridget Ring  
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,

Bridget Ring  
Education Specialist  
417-833-1570  
bring@dickersonparkzoo.org



# 2026 Application

Due by/postmarked by April 13, 2026

## To be filled out by teen applicant

### Personal Information

(please print neatly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

(city, state, zip code) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
(please indicate whose phone, i.e. home, parent's cell)

Alternate Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address of parent: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Contacts

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**Experience**

Please list your past work, volunteer experience, or clubs/groups to which you belong (i.e. teacher aide, babysitting, pet care, church groups etc).

Location	Job/Volunteer/Group Description and Your Role	Dates (list most recent first)

## About You

Please rate yourself on the following statements by circling the number that corresponds to your answer—1=Completely Agree, 2=Mostly Agree, 3= Agree a little, 4=Disagree a little, 5= Mostly Disagree 6=Completely Disagree:

I enjoy learning about animals:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I love the outdoors:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am a conservationist:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am comfortable being a leader:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I don't mind talking to kids I don't know:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I don't mind talking to adults I don't know:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I can be a role model for fellow volunteers:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am responsible:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am organized:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am willing to try new things:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I am trustworthy:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I always complete tasks given to me:	1	2	3	4	5	6
Other people describe me as outgoing:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I easily get along with other people my age:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I take responsibility for my actions:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I like to work alone:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I like to talk in front of groups of people:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I follow rules:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I respect my teachers:	1	2	3	4	5	6
I don't mind working with adults:	1	2	3	4	5	6

## Essay Questions

Please answer the following questions in your own words. Answers should be neatly printed or typed, with a **maximum** length of one page per question.

1. Why do you want to volunteer at the Dickerson Park Zoo? What do you think volunteering would help you accomplish now and for your future?
2. Please describe two instances that show your ability to show leadership or demonstrate your level and sense of responsibility.

