



Internships at Ellen Trout Zoo!

The goal of the Ellen Trout Zoo's internship program is to provide pre-professional, experiential learning opportunities for dedicated students interested in animal care, zookeeping, environmental issues/ethics, informal education, visitor studies, communication and community service. Through participation in the program, students will assist zoo staff with a variety of tasks which promote the fulfillment of the Zoo's mission to "connect people to the natural world through goals of a modern zoo: recreation, conservation, education, and research."

Ellen Trout Zoo (ETZ) is a City of Lufkin department and is an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited zoo. The zoo houses over 900 animals and plants in Lufkin, TX and participates in the AZA's Species Survival plans along with many other conservation organizations.

Our internships are unpaid and interns will be responsible for their own housing & transportation.

Why intern at ETZ?

- Diversity of your experience - ETZ has a very diverse collection of animals in their care, so interns will gain experience with mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles.
- Hands on Animal Care experience
- Shadowing knowledgeable supervisors
- Flexible scheduling - the zoo is open 9 am - 5 pm every day of the year (including Christmas) to the public; our staff is here every day from 8 am - 5 pm, with an hour break for lunch.

If you are interested in applying to one of our internship sessions and have read through this information packet, please use the link below to apply now!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNcJIMPRReBAEiIL0VRCYikGzD7zA46I_BhmijW9zg_WdK9g/viewform

Available Internship Positions:

Animal Care Intern: Works alongside Collection Manager and Keepers to provide daily care and husbandry for...

- Mammals South Intern: a variety of hoofstock (hippos, tapirs, duikers), birds (emus, cranes, waterfowl), wallabies, and some reptiles.
- Mammals North Intern: a variety of hoofstock (rhinos, giraffes), birds (raptors, hornbills), carnivores (big cats, otters, bobcats) and clinic/quarantine animals.
- Asia/ Primate Intern: a variety of primates, birds (parrots, flamingoes), other mammals (racoons, porcupines, clouded leopards) and some reptiles.
- Herps Intern: a variety of reptiles, amphibians and some small mammals and birds.

Education Intern: Works alongside Education staff to assist with the teaching of on & off-site programs for children & adults, research and development of educational materials, summer camp programming and special events, & daily care/husbandry of Ambassador Animals.

Sessions Available:

Spring 2024 - Begins February 1st to April 30th (*application due December 1, 2023*)

Summer 2024 - Begins June 1st to August 31st (*application due April 1st, 2024*)

Fall 2024 - Begins September 1st to November 30th (*application due July 1st, 2024*)

Eligibility Requirements:

- College student or recent graduate interested in pursuing a career in zoos, animal care or informal education
- Must be at least 18 years old and a United States resident
- Submission of completed application, resume and cover letter
- Interview with Zoo's Education Department and Collection Managers
- Signed Liability Release form
- Dependable transportation
- Positive attitude and strong work ethic
- Attend orientation at beginning of internship

**All interns will receive an evaluation of their time as an intern, completed by area supervisor & education staff upon completion of internship and all interns must complete daily reports for every day worked.

Internship Commitment

- Required minimum 16 hours per week, approximately 180 hours over 12-week period
 - Intern must work at least one 8-hour day per week to receive a well-rounded experience of the zoo's operations
 - 8-hour days are 8am to 5pm with a required one hour lunch. Morning shifts are 8am to 12pm; afternoon shifts are 1pm to 5pm
- Interns can work up to 40 hours per week if their schedule allows
- Schedule will be set once the internship has been accepted. We can be flexible if the schedule needs to be changed due to school/personal commitments
 - 24 hours notice is preferred if calling out

Education Interns:

- Public speaking skills and interest in working with children and the public
- Must be willing to handle animals when necessary for programming purposes

Course credit hours for your internship have additional requirements:

- Must work minimum hours set
- Any other reference from a professor/ college advisor and their contact information for education staff to communicate with
- Any other work assigned by the professor (daily reports, essay, etc.)

Physical Requirements: Must be able to participate physically in cleaning & maintaining animal care section and be able to lift 50lbs (moving feed bags/boxes of produce, bales of hay, and any other debris from habitats); Must be willing to work outdoors in all types of weather (Extreme cold or hot weather & rain/thunder); Specialized skills using power tools, hand tools or other appliances are preferred but not required.

Intern Benefits: 50% Discount at the Zoo Gift Shop/Concessions

Supervisory Relationship: The Director of Education & Zoo Educator serves as the internship coordinator for the Ellen Trout Zoo and is responsible for communication with the participating university supervisor and contract agreements with students/interns.

Application Requirements:

- Completed Intern Application
- Current Professional Resume
- Cover Letter
- Signed Volunteer Agreement
- Any additional materials (e.x. For college credit)

Use the link below to fill out your application online! If you prefer a physical application, please reach out using the contact information below.

Ellen Trout Zoo Intern Application Google Form

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNcJIMPReBAEIILOVRCYikGzD7zA46I_BhmijW9zg_WdK9g/viewform

Contact Information - Call/Email if you have any questions!

Whitney Heckler
Ellen Trout Zoo, Director of Educational Services
(936) 630-0574
wheckler@ellentrouzoo.com

Amanda Lyons
Ellen Trout Zoo, Zoo Educator
(936) 633-0403
alyons@ellentrouzoo.co



Volunteer Agreement

I certify that the information contained in the application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I have provided three references and give the Ellen Trout Zoo permission to contact those references.

I understand that filling out an application does not guarantee acceptance into the internship program.

If accepted into the internship program, I will adhere to the Ellen Trout Zoo's policies and procedures.

I will voluntarily offer my services with a clear understanding that there will be no monetary compensation.

Signature: _____ Date: __/__/20__

Any application documents can be submitted in-person to:

Ellen Trout Zoo Attn: Internship
402 Zoo Circle
Lufkin, Texas 75904