

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Intern Position Description

Title: Animal Observation Intern

Department: Animal

Supervised by: Curator of Animal Behavior Programs

Dates: February – May 2025

Time Commitment: Internships are 12-14 weeks and typically follow a part-time workweek pattern: minimum commitment is 16 hours per week that can be made up of two full days or up to four half days, Tuesday through Friday. The department supervisor sets final schedules.

Overview:

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. The Maryland Zoo is also a major tourist and education destination that welcomes 450,000 guests annually.

Behavioral observation and management is a key component of animal health and well-being. Interns will observe a variety of species across the Zoo and collect data that will tell us what an animal is doing, and where the animal is doing it. The data collected can then be used by animal care professionals to better understand the animal's well-being, and to aid them in making evidence-based decisions regarding their care.

Please note: Internships are unpaid, and there is no reimbursement for transportation or housing.

Responsibilities:

- Assist with Zoo behavior projects by collecting behavioral data.
- Assist, as needed, with basic animal husbandry. This could include cleaning habitats, weighing food, and assisting with habitat and facility maintenance.
- When on-grounds, answer visitors' questions about animals and the Zoo in general.
- All interns at the Maryland Zoo are required to complete a final project and present to zoo staff at the conclusion of their internship. This final project can be tailored to the position and department. Each project may be taken with you and used in your professional portfolio.

Qualifications:

- Must be at least 18 years of age and current college student or recent graduate;
- Must have the ability to stand on feet for long periods and lift moderately heavy; loads;
- Interest in working with animals and understanding animal behavior;
- Excellent communication and organizational skills;
- Willingness to learn about Maryland Zoo amenities, layout, operations, animal collection and conservation efforts;
- Must be able to lift up to 30 pounds; and
- Must be able to work outdoors in all seasons and weather conditions.

Training: All interns must complete Volunteer Orientation, a Self-Guided Tour, and on-the-job training for position.

Benefits:

- The opportunity to learn in an AZA accredited facility.
- Hands-on experience, experiential learning and mentoring by our staff.
- Professional development workshops.
- Zoo Membership during your internship.
- Free Zoo admission, discount on purchases in Zoo gift shops and volunteer newsletter with wildlife news and Maryland Zoo happenings.
- Maryland Zoo Internships may be applied to receive college credit in accordance with your school's policy.