

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Intern Position Description

Title: Horticulture Intern

Department: Horticulture

Supervised by: Horticulture Manager

Dates: May – August 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, Monday 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.

Our Horticulture Department works daily to keep invasive species at bay on our 160-acre campus, and to maintain the beauty, health, and authenticity of our exhibits and public areas. Interns will gain insight into the operations of horticulture and zoological landscaping through training, shadowing and hands-on experiences. Interns will participate in a plant record keeping, using an established gps/tagging system.

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

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate with education and horticulture staff to work with a plant recordkeeping and labeling system;
- Utilize a GPS tracker to accurate map tree specimens located throughout zoo grounds;
- Assist with mulching, bed preparation and planting display gardens, trees and shrubs;
- Assist with routine maintenance to include, but not limited to, watering, pruning, blowing and leaf and debris removal;
- Assist with the removal of invasive plant species and keep non-exhibit plants in check;
- Assist with maintenance of interior foliage plants in public areas and administrative offices;
- Assist with other Horticultural tasks as needed and allowed.
- 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 handle multiple tasks;
- For college credit encouraged;

- Plant identification is a crucial aspect of this position, being able to identify native and invasive species.
- Ability to work with individuals from a wide variety of age groups and ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds;
- Excellent communication and organizational skills;
- Must possess a basic understanding of plant care and basic landscaping skills;
- Must be able to work safely at all times, including the use of basic hand tools, such as rakes and pruners, etc. and the ability to follow directions and stay within designated work areas;
- Must be able to operate a variety of machines and equipment including computer, telephone, radio, vehicles, hand tools, gardening tools, machinery; etc;
- Willingness to learn about Maryland Zoo amenities, layout, operations, animal collection and conservation efforts;
- Must be able to lift 35 lbs and walk large areas of the Zoo as needed;
- 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.

Apply here: <https://www.marylandzoo.org/about-us/internships/>

Please send resume and transcript here after applying: internships@marylandzoo.org