Application Process

New Applicants
We frequently have more applicants than spaces for our Teen Volunteer Programs. The application process is your first chance to show us that you are responsible and can follow directions (a very important part of volunteering with a zoo)! The application must be completed by the applicant and not a parent or guardian. Not all who complete the application process will be accepted as a Teen Volunteer.

Before applying, students should carefully consider whether they have the time to commit to this program, especially if summer schedules are busy with activities like sports, band camps, long vacations, jobs, etc. Missing more than two scheduled days may affect program participation. Parental and family involvement is necessary as transportation, encouragement, and support of the teens is critical for a great experience.

There are three parts to the application to become a new teen volunteer. All three parts must be completed by the deadline to be considered!

1. Application: Fill out the online application found at jbzoo.org/volunteer. You will need the following information:
   - Your Street address
   - Your Email address
   - Your Home phone number (if we need to get ahold of your parent/guardian)
   - Your Cell phone (if we need to get ahold of you)

2. Essay: Write your responses to the questions below.
   a. Who are you? Write an introduction about yourself!
   b. With all of the volunteer opportunities available why would you like to volunteer at the John Ball Zoo?
   c. Have you ever volunteered before?
      - Yes - Where did you volunteer and what were your responsibilities?
      - No - What motivated you to start volunteering now?
   d. Do you have any experience working with kids? Babysitting, younger siblings, neighbors, church etc.
      - Yes – Please describe what type of experience you have and what you enjoy most about working with kids? What part of working with kids did you find most difficult?
      - No – What part of working with kids do you think will be the most exciting? What part of working with kids makes you the most nervous?
   e. Our main goal is engaging the public and inspiring action for conservation. This is done through talks, interactive activities and exhibits. How do you feel about speaking with our visitors?
      - Please describe your comfort level including any other public speaking experience you may have.
   f. Please provide a brief explanation stating how you feel about animals in human care.

3. Email Essay as an attachment to TeenVolunteers@JBZoo.org. Please put “Teen Essay” and your full name in the subject line of the email. Ex. Teen Essay: Billy T. Goat

2020 Important Dates – More dates added as they are determined

April 6th Application Deadline – All materials must be received to be considered.
April 13th Interview Notifications
Introductions – Due to the number of applications received not all applicants are selected for interviews. Please note that receiving an interview does not imply entry into the program.

Everyone with completed applications will receive notification if they did or did not get into the program.

New Teen Volunteer Orientation

CIT Training

June 15th 1st week of volunteering for Zoo Teens & CIT’s

Last day of Summer Volunteer Schedule

Frequently Asked Questions

- I only want to work with the zoo animals. Which program should I choose?
  The Zoo Teen program would be your best choice, however we want applicants to have a realistic view of what they will be participating in at the zoo. Most of what Zoo Teens do is interpreting, interacting and educating guests of all ages. This includes welcoming guests at our interactive stations with budgies, wallabies and petting corral. Although there is a small component of keeper work/animal care, which is most often cleaning, it is never done when the animals are present. The CIT’s are focused on classroom skills. You will get to spend time in the zoo while with your classes and have a variety of in-zoo experiences which are unique to each camp class.

- How will I know if you got my application materials?
  Due to the high volume of application materials we receive it is not possible for us to confirm receipt of materials. With the email system that we have in place you should be able to confirm a date and time that your email was sent.

- If I receive an interview does that mean I made it into the program?
  No. Our application process strives to give students real world experience in a job like application process.

- My last day of school is after the program starts. Should I still apply?
  Yes! We understand that a few districts may run later into June than others and this will be worked around and should not discourage you from applying.

If you still have questions about the teen program please email TeenVolunteers@JBZoo.org