

Volunteer Opportunities



Explore your
**WILDSIDE as a
Washington Park Zoo
Volunteer!**

Volunteer at the Zoo

Volunteers offer invaluable support to the Zoo Crew. Zoo volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds and bring a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills to the Zoo operations. Of course, no prior experience is necessary -- we'll teach you what you need to know! Whether you have just a few hours each month to spare, or are looking for a new avenue in life, there is a home for you at the Zoo.

ZooScapers



As a ZooScaper volunteer, you will assist with projects for the Horticultural

Department. Projects range from light physical duty such as planting, weeding, mulching, and watering, to more physically challenging projects such as moving deadfall and clearing brush. The ZooScapers program requires 20 hours of volunteer work each year in order to participate in the next year's program. Various time commitments are available. Opportunities are available March-October and Youth volunteers 16 years and older may participate.

Special Events

Maybe you do not want to do the dirty work. Some Zoo volunteers only help with the special events: Reptile Day, Boo at the Zoo, Parade floats or Zooltide celebrations. You can be an important part of the fun!

Special Skilled Volunteers

Do you have a special skill or talent that could help the zoo, such as an artist, carpenter, welder, fund raiser? We can use you to.

Community Volunteers

The Washington Park Zoo also has volunteer opportunities for local schools, scouts and other organizations that wish to do one day or weekend group projects.

Zoo Volunteers



For more information or for an application, contact us at:

Washington Park Zoo
115 Lakeshore Drive
Michigan City, IN
46360
(219) 873-1510



We are always accepting new helpers in the starter-level Zoo Volunteer program. This program has been designed to give volunteers the opportunity to learn about the zoo as they work their way up to a higher level of involvement. Volunteers shift around the Zoo to assist the staff with daily operation tasks, such as cleaning the petting barn area, diet preparation, washing windows, grounds work, and special events. Zoo Volunteers will have limited contact with the animals until they have completed 50 hours of volunteer time, then they are welcomed to apply for the Keepers Aide program.

Time Requirement: Volunteers are permitted to make up their own time schedules - between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily but we have a minimum of 2 hours per shift.

Must work at least 20 hours a year to remain in "active" status.

Age Requirement: 18 years or older



To qualify for this program, you must either be a Zoo Volunteer who has completed 50 hours of experience time or have successfully completed the Keeper Internship Program.

This program allows qualified volunteers to have a more hands on experience assisting keepers with the cleaning, feeding, enrichment, maintenance of animal exhibits, zoo grounds and educational interactions with Zoo guest. Keeper Aides work under the direct supervision of zookeepers and at times in close proximity to animals, so a current negative T.B reading is required.

Time Requirement: Keeper Aides are permitted to make up their own time schedules - between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily, with a minimum of 2 hours per shift.

Must work at least 30 hours per year to remain in "active" status.

Age Requirement: 18 years or older

Keeper Aide Volunteer





Keeper Internship candidates must plan to attend or currently be in college and work towards a degree in biology, zoology, animal behavior, or another animal related field. Interns work under the direct supervision of the zoo staff and a research paper is required to successfully complete the program. Interns are involved in various aspects of animal care, including daily husbandry, diet preparation and delivery, exhibit maintenance, behavioral enrichment preparation, animal observations, operant conditioning, and educational interactions with Zoo guests. The Internship program is limited to four students per session, and they are chosen based on the best applications. Since Intern's work alongside keepers and have contact with the animals, they must provide the Zoo with a negative T.B. test reading before they can start the program. This is an experienced based position and is not paid.

Time Requirement: The internship term is 12 weeks with a minimum of 16 hours per week or 4 weeks with a minimum of 40 hours per week (schedules may be flexible based on the candidate's availability). There are three sessions held throughout the year.

Age Requirement: 18 years older