Zoo Teens

- Ages 14-17
- This program is designed as a volunteer opportunity for teens primarily through the summer but can be extended through the whole year. This provides them with a great opportunity to learn about animals and the world around them, as well as learning life skills, including scheduling and time management.

Application Process:

- Runs from January 1-April 14
- Must turn in application, questions and 1 reference (from someone other than a family member or neighbor) by April 14
- Recommend you attend our Zoo Teen Workshop March 1st from 2:00-4:00, a parent or guardian is strongly encouraged to attend. We will have stations set up describing volunteer opportunities available during the summer and answering any questions you might have. Please register by calling 681-3559.
- Interviews will be the last 2 weeks of April
- Decisions will be made by May 10th
- Will be accepting 30 teens into the program

Training:

- Classes will run from June 9-12th from 9:00-3:00, YOU MUST BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE TRAINING CLASSES!
- Test on Thursday June 12th (must pass test with 75% before you can volunteer but can take it up to 3 times)
- There will be additional educational classes that teen volunteers accepted into the program can then sign up for throughout the summer

During the program, if you do anything against policy (which we will be covering in the training) you will receive a strike. After three strikes you will be asked to leave the program.

Requirements for summer teens:

- 50 hours total in June, July, August and September (not including training time)
- Must attend luncheon June 28th or July 12th at 12:00

Requirements for year round teens:

- Additional 8 hours a month October-May
- Attendance of volunteer meetings (held 4 times a year)

Levels:

The program will be divided into levels:

1st year opportunities

Exhibit interpreters

Camp counselors: 9:00-2:00

Special events

Mascot “Crash”

After 100+ hours can become animal handlers based on recommendations from staff

2nd year opportunities

30 hours as exhibit interpreters/camp counselors/special events

After 30 hours (and cannot apply before July):

They can apply for the animal department; will be based on hours, evaluations and age (normal accepted age will be 16)

Animal handling, based on hours and evaluations

Keeper level 1: String 2 or 5

9:30-1:00

3rd year opportunities

30 hours as exhibit interpreters/camp counselors/special events

Keeper level 2: String 1 and 3-based on evaluations

Must volunteer at least 10 times

Keeper level 3: String 4 and 6

ZooTeen Volunteer Application

Peoria Zoo

2218 N Prospect Rd
Peoria, IL 61603
POSTMARK DEADLINE: APRIL 14, 2014

Important notes for ZooTeen applicants:

- Please give the included recommendation form to an adult (not a relative) who can speak to your abilities, such as a teacher, coach, youth group leader, etc
- Please complete the application, short answers and essay in your own handwriting. Notice: the Zoo will provide accommodations in the application and interview process for applicants who indicate the necessity. If you need accommodations, please contact the Peoria Zoo at 681-3559.

Date:_____

Name:_____ Birth Date:_____

Address:_____ Home Phone #_____

City, State, Zip:_____ Email:_____

The date of your last day of school_____

Adult shirt size: S M L XL 2XL

Do you have previous work/volunteer experience? If so, where and what were your responsibilities?

_____

_____

_____

_____

What opportunities interest you? Please circle all that apply:

Conservation programs Public Education Animal Science

Community Service Leadership Development Other:_____

What skills do you want to develop as a member of the Zoo Teen program?

_____

_____

_____

The Zoo values the following characteristics. Please indicate how other people (friends, family, teachers) would rate you in the following areas, using the scale provided:

Scale: 1=Below Average; 2=Fair; 3=Average; 4=Good; 5=Excellent; 6=Outstanding

Oral Communication Skills	1	2	3	4	5	6
Dependability	1	2	3	4	5	6
Maturity	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ability to work on my own	1	2	3	4	5	6
Self-Motivation	1	2	3	4	5	6
Teamwork Skills	1	2	3	4	5	6
Follow Directions	1	2	3	4	5	6
Willing to learn/try new things	1	2	3	4	5	6
Flexibility	1	2	3	4	5	6
Positive Attitude	1	2	3	4	5	6

SHORT ANSWER: Select two of the traits above that best describe you. Please give a specific example of how you have demonstrated this trait.

Trait #1:_____. Specific Example:_____

_____

_____

Trait #2:_____. Specific Example:_____

_____

_____

CONSIDERATIONS

Students must be 14 years old as of June 1 of the applying year. This program is not a summer recreation program and first year volunteers will have no contact with exhibit animals.

Before submitting this application, students with a heavy schedule of summer activities, i.e., sports, camps, long vacations, jobs, etc. should consider whether or not they have the time to commit to the program.

_____ _____

Date Applicant Signature

_____ _____

Date Parent/Guardian Signature

Zoo Teen Essay

Postmark Deadline: Monday, April 14, 2014

Please write a short essay (between 150-250 words)Tell us why you think the Zoo is a place you would like to volunteer and what you would like to gain from your volunteer experience.

ZooTeen Recommendation Form

The Peoria Zoo
2218 N Prospect Rd
Peoria, IL 61603

Postmark Deadline: Monday, April 14, 2014

Name of ZooTeen Applicant_____
ZooTeen Applicant Phone Number_____

ZooTeen Applicant
Please give this recommendation form to a teacher, coach, youth group leader or any other adult that knows you in a structured setting. Parents and family members should not be used as references. This recommendation form needs to be mailed in a sealed envelope, so as a courtesy, please give the person writing your recommendation a stamped, addressed envelope.

Evaluator
The teenager who gave you this form is applying to be a member of the Peoria ZooTeen program, a service and leadership program for teenagers, ages 14-17 based out of the Peoria Zoo. Please complete the following recommendation form and return to the address listed above (the teenager should have provided a stamped, addressed envelope for your convenience); this form must be postmarked by April 14, 2014. Your comments are greatly appreciated and will help us determine if this applicant will enjoy success as a member of the ZooTeen program.

Name of Evaluator_____

Relationship to Applicant_____

How long have you known the Applicant_____

Evaluator Contact Phone (if follow up is needed)_____

I recommend this applicant for the ZooTeen Program (circle one)

With great Enthusiasm	With confidence	With slight hesitation	With serious reservation