

Teen Programs

General FAQs



What volunteer programs are available for teens?

Teens interested in getting involved with the zoo can apply for one of our two well-regarded teen programs: the Teen Wild Guides and ZooCamp Teen Assistants. In general, Teen Wild Guides is a good choice for teens interested in teaching about animals, learning more about them and participating in conservation-oriented projects. ZooCamp Teen Assistants is a good choice for teens interested in children and camp-based programs.

I need to do an internship or special project for my high school—what opportunities are available?

Due to the level of training and supervision required for all volunteers at the zoo, we are unable to accommodate special requests to host student interns. Please check our Teen Wild Guide and ZooCamp Teen Assistant pages, to see if these programs might be sufficient to satisfy your school's internship requirements.

I need just a few hours for a class or school requirement, can I come in this weekend?

The zoo offers regular workdays at our on-site habitat restoration project at Arroyo Viejo Creek, on every 3rd Saturday of the month. Please refer to the zoo's Calendar of Events or contact the Teen Programs Manager for a list of upcoming dates. We are only able to offer short term volunteer opportunities on these pre-scheduled dates, and cannot take short term volunteers at other times.

Do I get to work with animals as a teen volunteer?

The minimum age required to volunteer in Animal Management is 18. However, teens in the Teen Wild Guide program work in the contact yard, and may earn additional opportunities to work with keepers and animals as their performance and length of service allows. Please refer to the Teen Wild Guide page for additional information.