Zoo Teen Program Application

Application must be received, postmarked or faxed by **May 5, 2017** to be considered for the program. **We do not accept applications turned in after the deadline.**

Please send applications to:
Zoo Teen Program - 7400 Division Drive - Battle Creek, MI 49014.
Fax: (269)979-8834 ATTN: Zoo Teen Program
Email: volunteer@binderparkzoo.org
(To email this form, please click the “Fill and Sign” button on the PDF file.)

Application Check List

- Application complete - filled out by applicant
- Essay questions complete – filled out by applicant
- Copy of current Tetanus (must be within the last 5 years to work around animals)
- Two letters of recommendation from adults that are not related to you.

*Only completed application forms with the above check list completed will be considered. Please do not send program fee with the completed application. It does not guarantee a spot in the program.*

Binder Park Zoo offers two Zoo Teen Programs each of which strives to provide our Zoo Teens with a fun, educational and worthwhile summer experience at our zoo. Zoo Teens are required to participate a minimum of 40 hours including participating in one of our many special events. Hours are not to exceed over 60 hours, between June and October 2017.

**Please indicate which program you are applying for:**

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**Junior Zoo Keeper**
$125 program fee, which includes nametag, Zoo Teen shirt, souvenir cup with free refills during working time, invitation to the yearly Volunteer Appreciation dinner, and an unforgettable experience of a lifetime; 40 hours minimum required which includes helping during one of the Zoo’s Special Events. (Will not exceed 60 hours.) Please do not send payment at this time. TB tests can be done after acceptance into the program. Accepts 30 teen participants.

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**Junior Zoo Educator**
$125 program fee, which includes nametag, Zoo Teen shirt, souvenir cup with free refills during participant time, invitation to the yearly Volunteer Appreciation dinner, and an unforgettable experience of a lifetime; 40 hours minimum required which includes helping during one of the Zoo’s Special Events. (Will not exceed 60 hours.) Please do not send payment at this time. TB tests can be done after acceptance into the program. Accepts 20 teen participants.

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**JUNIOR ZOOKEEPER PROGRAM:**

Teens that opt for this program will work with our Animal Care Staff and will learn about basic animal husbandry (feeding and cleaning), care and well being of our zoo animals. Teens must be willing to work inside and outside, rain or shine and be willing to get dirty. Must get a current Tuberculin (TB) Skin Test (must be negative and administered within the last year to work with animals) upon acceptance into the program.

Much of the work JZKs takes place outside and in various weather conditions. In addition, many zoo buildings are not air-conditioned and can be uncomfortable and smelly during hot summer months. A Junior Zookeeper must be willing and able to work in these types of environments. Binder Park Zoo will make reasonable accommodations to allow the participation of individuals with physical limitations.
JUNIOR ZOO EDUCATORS PROGRAM:
Teens that opt for this program will work with our Education Staff helping out with camps, birthday parties, overnights, bio-fact stations and public presentations. Teens need to feel comfortable around children and talking to the public and talking to various guests, camp participants and adult participants. Our Junior Zoo Educators are given the opportunity to be able to experience animal handling training. (If interested in fulfilling the training, it is a requirement to attend at least 6 training sessions.)

Much of the work JZEIs takes place outside and in various weather conditions. In addition, many of the summer camps spend a great deal of time outdoors walking around zoo grounds. Conditions can be uncomfortable during hot summer months. A Junior Zoo Educator must be willing and able to work in these types of environments. Binder Park Zoo will make reasonable accommodations to allow the participation of individuals with physical limitations.

Important Information:
- Qualified applicants will be invited to an onsite interview by letter or email. (Interviews will be scheduled in May).
- Be able to attend the mandatory Parent/Participant Orientation (June 3, 2017 10am-2pm).
- Be able to donate a minimum of 40 hours over the course of June-October. With hours not exceeding 60.
- Be able to provide help during one of our Zoo’s Special Events. (Cheetah Chase, Tour De Zoo, Zoo Boo and more)
- Have reliable transportation to and from the Zoo.
- Be willing to adhere to all Zoo Teen policies and procedures.
- Obtain a parent/legal guardian’s written permission to apply for and participate in the Zoo Teen program.
- Must be at least 13 years of age as of June 1, 2017. Must be under the age of 18 as of June 1, 2017.

What qualities do we look for in a Zoo Teen?
- Trustworthy, reliable, and responsible
- Able to present a neat and well-groomed appearance
- Able to accept supervision of adults and ask for assistance when needed
- Courteous to his/her peers, the general public, participants and staff
- Willing to learn new skills and get his/her hands dirty
- Comfortable working with guests of all ages and backgrounds
- Able to demonstrate a positive attitude at all times
- Supportive of Binder Park Zoo’s mission
- Able to stand for prolonged periods of time.
- Comfortable with safety practices including lifting objects, reaching, bending, climbing, kneeling, pushing/pulling objects, and handling/grasping objects.
Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: __________
Age June 2017: ___________ Grade: ___________ Shirt size (adult): ___________
Name of Parent/Guardian: ___________________________
Address: ___________________________ City: ___________
State: ___________ Zip: ___________
Daytime Phone: (____)___________ Evening Phone: (____)___________
Parent/Guardian’s E-mail: ___________________________
Applicant’s E-mail: ___________________________

Please circle whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. There is no right or wrong answer!

I care about animals

I want to learn more about animals

I want to work with animals

I want to be around animals

I don’t mind getting dirty or wet

I like being outdoors

I enjoy watching animals

I’m an observant person

I enjoy teaching and sharing information

I feel comfortable around children

I would do something to help animals even though I may not work directly with them

I’m not afraid to talk to new people

My friends would say I’m outgoing

I’m willing to try new things
Please list other participant programs you are currently involved in:

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Please tell us about some of your hobbies and interests:

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Please tell us what interests you most about our Zoo Teen Program at Binder Park Zoo?

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What do you hope to gain from this experience?

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