



ZooAide Program

Dear Prospective Volunteer:

Thank you for your interest in volunteering at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. We are excited to meet you and we hope this year's program will be fun and rewarding.

This program is available to teens ages 13 through 17 years who are interested in volunteering at a zoo. Applicants must be interested in animals and the environment. They must also possess an enthusiasm for interacting with the public.

Requirements:

An applicant must:

1. Be between ages 13 -17 years on or before June 1, 2009. (**No exceptions**)
2. Have an excitement about animals and the environment they are willing to share with the public.
3. Commit to at least 56 hours of service between the months of June – August 2009.
4. Have access to reliable transportation to and from the Zoo.

If selected s/he must:

1. Attend a one day training session. Absence is excused **only** in the case of illness.
2. Purchase a uniform shirt and name badge from the Zoo. Uniform pants and shoes will not be provided.
3. Provide own lunches and transportation to and from the Zoo during training and scheduled dates.
4. Dependably and enthusiastically show up and perform volunteer tasks on scheduled volunteer dates.

Complete and mail applications to:
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
ZooAide Program
P.O. Box 400
Powell, OH 43065

Application deadline: **March 9, 2009**
No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

To the Parents/Guardians:

- The ZooAide program is at least a 56 hour commitment during the summer, not only for the ZooAide, but for their family. Cooperation, support, transportation and encouragement are necessary. Please ensure that if a ZooAide is scheduled to work, they can make that commitment.
- Only a few of those who apply are accepted due to space limitations. Participant's performance is evaluated every day they volunteer. Any ZooAide not meeting the set standards will be dismissed from the program.
- Interested ZooAides who show an exemplary work standard will be given additional opportunities to volunteer during the school year. Additional participation will be discussed with the ZooAide near the end of the season.
- The Zoo may be reached by public transportation.
- We earnestly strive to keep costs associated with this program to a minimum. If you are not able to provide the necessary fees associated with this program, please contact the ZooAide coordinator at (614) 645-3571 to discuss scholarship funds.

IMPORTANT DATES:

For 2009 Program

Application Deadline	March 9
Interviews	March & April
Acceptance Notifications Mailed	Week of April 20
Orientation sessions (ZooAides are required to choose one of the four sets of dates and attend both sessions.)	Wed June 3 and 10 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Thurs June 4 and 11 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Fri June 5 and 12 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Sat June 6 and 13 9:00 am – 12:00 pm <u>or</u> 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
First Date of the Program	June 15
Season-end Banquet (For volunteers & families)	End of August
Last Day of the Program	Labor Day

To Apply:

1. The applicant must complete this application him/herself.
2. Two references must be submitted. Any adult leader (except family) may complete this form. We recommend teachers, guidance counselors, community leaders, etc.
3. Every part of this application is important, as materials will be reviewed as a whole. Interviews will be scheduled for those applicants who best meet the criteria listed in the requirements section.
4. Complete applications must be submitted by the deadline.



ZooAide Program Application

Complete and mail to: Columbus Zoo and Aquarium • ZooAide Program • P.O. Box 400 • Powell, OH 43065

Please print legibly

No late or incomplete applications will be accepted.

Application deadline is: March 9, 2009

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) _____

Shirt size (circle one) S M L XL XXL

School you will be attending _____

Name of Mother or Guardian _____

Home Address _____

(if different from above)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Name of Father or Guardian _____

Home Address _____

(if different from above)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

Do you have access to reliable transportation to and from the Zoo? Yes No

Are you applying for financial aid? Yes No

(If yes, please include a short letter stating financial need)

How did you hear about this program? _____

(If a friend referred you, please provide that person's name)

Please complete reverse side



ZooAide Program Volunteer Reference Form

Complete and mail to: Columbus Zoo and Aquarium • ZooAide Program • P.O. Box 400 • Powell, OH 43065
Application deadline is: March 9, 2009

Applicant's name: _____

To the applicant:

Put your name on this form then give it to an adult reference (other than a relative) at least two weeks prior to the application deadline, along with a stamped envelope addressed to the Zoo. Ask them to mail it as soon as possible as we will not review your application without two completed references. Please remember to thank them for their help.

To the adult giving the reference:

The applicant above is applying to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's ZooAide Teen Volunteer Program. ZooAides are teens, ages 13-17 years, who are interested in animals and the natural world. Their focus will be primarily public education and they should be outgoing enough to successfully interact with the public. They will be asked to work in a variety of areas; consequently a strong work ethic is extremely important.

All responses will be kept confidential. Your honest input regarding the applicant is very important to us as we are only able to interview the teens for a few minutes. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the coordinator at (614) 645-3571. **Forms must be received no later than March 9, 2009.** Thank you for your time and assistance.

Reference's name: _____

In what capacity have you known the applicant? _____

How long have you known the applicant? _____

How strongly would you recommend this student?

- With great enthusiasm With confidence With some confidence
 With reservation I do not recommend (*please list reservations on back*)

Please complete reverse side

How would you describe the applicant's ability to speak in public?

How would you rate the applicant's motivation level?

Has the applicant demonstrated responsibility?

How well does the applicant work with other youth?

How well does the applicant work on his/her own?

How well does the applicant adapt when the situation changes?

How would you characterize the applicant's leadership ability?

Additional comments. Please include any information that would help us in placing this applicant in a volunteer position. Include information about special interests, qualities, abilities, or experience pertaining to this applicant.

Signature _____ Date _____