



Zoo Crew FAQ's

1. What do Zoo Crew members do?

- Assist with care of zoo animals: nutrition, husbandry and enrichment.
- Learn how to properly handle animals while providing them with exercise and teaching zoo visitors about them.
- Teach zoo visitors using discovery carts and by telling the animals' stories.
- Help with summer camps by teaching campers about animals and being a positive role model for younger children.
- Participate in conservation projects such as stream monitoring, vegetable gardening, and animal-themed fundraising projects.
- Attend educational seminars and behind-the-scenes experiences led by zoo staff.

2. How many applications do you accept?

We accept 30-35 members into the program.

3. Are full day shifts available? Would my teen be able to participate all 10 weeks?

Yes, but we only guarantee one 3-hour shift each week. Starting their second week, Zoo Crew members can sign up for full day shifts if space allows. Technically these are two back-to-back shifts and they will participate from 9am-4pm with an unsupervised lunch break from 12-1pm. Choosing to participate for all 10 weeks is also an option if shifts are available.

4. My teen can't meet the participation requirements because of a family vacation, sports tournament, or some other commitment. Can they still apply?

Zoo Crew members receive a great deal of education and training during the program and we want them to successfully complete the program goals and objectives. Therefore, teens must be available one shift per week for at least 7 of the 10 weeks. One of these shifts must fall during the first week which is an in-depth orientation week.

5. How and when do we sign up for shifts?

We use an online sign up system that will be explained at the June evening orientation.

6. My teen has been in Zoo Crew before. Do they need to come to the evening orientation in early June? Do I need to come too?

Yes, a requirement of participating in the program is to attend the evening orientation with your teen. This will allow you both to meet the Zoo Crew Coordinator, ask questions, and learn important rules and protocols. When a parent/guardian doesn't attend this orientation, we find that important information is not conveyed to them, and it can cause confusion and frustration for the teen. This orientation will be held online via Zoom and there will be two dates to choose from.

7. When does my teen have to turn 13? What if my teen turns 18 in the summer?

Teens must turn 13 before the first day of the program. Unfortunately, teens who turn 18 during the summer are not eligible for the program. We encourage them to apply for a summer job in our [Guest Experience Department](#).

More questions?

Contact Sarah Wilcox, Director of Education, at swilcox@lszoo.org or 218-730-4500 ext. 214.