



## Teenage Application Packet

Thank you for your interest in the Minnesota Zoo's Volunteer Program! The teenage application process is two easy steps:

### 1. Essay Questions

Please answer the essay questions below on a separate sheet of paper and include them with your application. Your responses may be typed or handwritten. Each response must be at least 75 words.

1. Describe two of your strengths and talents that you would bring to the Minnesota Zoo Volunteer Program.
2. Why does volunteering at the Minnesota Zoo appeal to you? Why do you want to be part of this program?
3. How do you feel about animals in captivity in a zoo setting?

### 2. Application Form

Please complete the application form which is page 3 and 4 of this attachment. Attach your essay answers to the form and mail to the address below at your earliest opportunity. Questions, please call 952.431.9588.

Minnesota Zoo Volunteer Office  
ATTN: Heidi Rickert  
13000 Zoo Blvd  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

### What's next?

When we receive your **complete** application, including answers to essay questions, you will be invited via e-mail to attend a mandatory interview session. If you don't have e-mail, you will receive a post office letter. Interview session dates and times are noted at the end of this document. **Sessions fill quickly and the sooner you return your application to us, the better chance you have of securing a spot in the Interview Session.**

### What's covered in the Interview Session?

Discussion will focus on the kinds of tasks volunteers handle, the commitment expected from each volunteer, scheduling of volunteer hours, and training requirements. Each teen will participate in a five-minute interview as well with a member from the Education or Volunteer Department at the Zoo.

### A few other important details...

- \*One parent or guardian **must attend** the Interview Session with their teenager.
- \*Pre-registration is required to attend Interview session.
- \*Please do not bring siblings to interview session. Space is very limited.
- \*Not all applicants will be accepted into the program.
- \*In 2011, we had double the number of applicants than needed.
- \*The sooner you get your complete application packet to us... the better chance you have of securing a spot in one of our programs.

**MINNESOTA ZOO VOLUNTEER PROGRAM  
INTERVIEW AND TRAINING SCHEDULE for SPRING of 2012**

**Summer Seasonal Program**

After receiving your application you will be sent a link to sign up on line for an interview session. Limited capacity for each interview session due to space restrictions. There will be a group presentation where you will get more information about volunteering at the Zoo and specific information about your program. Five-minute individual interviews will take place at this time.

Interview sessions

Monday, April 16	6:30-8:30pm
Monday, April 23	6:30-8:30pm
Saturday, April 28	10-12noon

Training classes

Saturday, May 12 and Saturday, May 19	8:30-2:30	Zoo orientation, customer service, first aid uniforms, booths Discovery Bay, Dolphin Stadium, Russia's Grizzly Coast and Dinosaurs
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Please note there is no make-up day for either session. If you are not available for this training, you will not be able to join the program for this year.

**Family Farm Volunteer Program**

After receiving your application you will be sent a link to sign up on line for an interview session. Limited capacity for each interview session due to space restrictions. There will be a group presentation where you will get more information about volunteering at the Zoo and specific information about your program. 5 minute individual interviews will take place at this time.

Interview sessions

Monday, April 16	6:30-8:30pm
Monday, April 23	6:30-8:30pm
Saturday, April 28	10-12noon

Training classes

Saturday, May 12 and Sunday, May 20	8:30-2:30 11:30-4:00	Zoo orientation, customer service, first aid uniforms, booths Farm Training
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Please note there is no make-up day for either session. If you are not available for this training, you will not be able to join the program for this year.

**ZooTeen Volunteer Program**

After receiving your application you will be sent a link to sign up on line for an interview session. Limited capacity for each interview session due to space restrictions. There will be a group presentation where you will get more information about volunteering at the Zoo and specific information about your program. 5 minute individual interviews will take place at this time.

Interview sessions

Monday, February 27	6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m.
Saturday, March 3	10am-12noon OR 1-3 pm

Training class

You only need to attend one of these training dates. Keep both dates open until you know which weeks you are scheduled during the summer of 2012

Saturday May 12	9am-4pm- Orientation, ZooTeen rules and camp scenarios. Attend this date if you will be volunteering before June 22
Monday, June 25	9am-4pm Orientation, ZooTeen rules and camp scenarios. Attend this date if you will be volunteering July 2 or later

Please note there is no make up training day. If you are not available for training, you will not be able to join the program for this summer.



**PERSONAL INFORMATION Teen Volunteer**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer to be called \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address, City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_ Current Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Lives in home with applicant? Yes No  
 Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Lives in home with applicant? Yes No  
 Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**MEDICAL NOTES** Allergies, medications or other medical conditions of which you want us to be aware \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL/EMPLOYMENT**

School/College \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/year if currently attending \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Degree \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_  
Current employer Position How long have you been at your current job

**MINNESOTA ZOO MEMBER OR PAST VOLUNTEER**

Have you or your family been a member? Yes No Please list member number, if a current member \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have you ever volunteered at the MN Zoo? Circle YES NO List name if different from current \_\_\_\_\_  
 How did you find out about our volunteer program? \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOOSE ONE PROGRAM AND TELL US WHEN YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO VOLUNTEER**

- ZooTeen Program 13-18 year olds** Out of 14 weeks in June, July and August, how many weeks are you **unavailable** due to vacations, sports, camps, etc., to volunteer this summer.  
 unavailable 0-2 weeks     unavailable 3-4 weeks     unavailable 5-8 weeks     unavailable 9 or more weeks
- Summer Seasonal Interpretive Program 17 year olds** please identify your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice of volunteer day & shift  
 Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday     Thursday     Friday     Saturday     Sunday     Morning shift     Afternoon shift
- Family Farm Interpretive Program 15-17 year olds** please identify your 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice of volunteer day  
 Monday     Tuesday     Wednesday     Thursday     Friday     Saturday     Sunday (9:30-4:30 each day)

**REFERENCES** Please provide two work, school or personal references, not relatives, whom we may contact regarding your application

1.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address City Zip \_\_\_\_\_

2.  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Address City Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT**

By signing below, I authorize investigation of all information contained in this application and/or provided in my interview. Any persons or organizations I have listed are authorized to provide information including, but not limited to, employment, performance, disciplinary or attendance records, volunteer history or character. I certify that the facts I have given in my volunteer application are true and correct. I understand that any false, misleading or concealment of information on this application is sufficient cause for disqualification or immediate discharge.

I understand that there will be an interview in addition to my application.  
I understand that a selection process is used in the recruitment process and not all applicants are accepted into the program.  
I understand that the Farm and Summer Seasonal Programs run 12-14 weeks. My summer schedule will allow me to miss **no more** than two weeks of volunteering.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print your name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent/guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Please print your name

**RETURN YOUR APPLICATION and ESSAY QUESTIONS TO**

Minnesota Zoo Volunteer Office 13000 Zoo Boulevard

Apple Valley, MN 55124

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Volunteer Office 952-431-9588

Volunteer Office E-mail [volunteer@mnzoo.org](mailto:volunteer@mnzoo.org)

Volunteer Office Fax: 952-431-9236