



VOLUNTEERING at LONDON ZOO and WHIPSNADE WILD ANIMAL PARK

Thank you for your interest

London Zoo and Whipsnade are part of ZSL, a scientific, conservation and education charity. ZSL relies almost entirely on income from visitors to the two zoos for its funding. Over 1.3 million people visit the Zoo and the Park each year and it is our aim to give them a unique and memorable experience.

Volunteers

Volunteers play a very important role in the life of the ZSL. They do not take the place of paid staff, but they contribute to the vital conservation and education efforts of London Zoo and Whipsnade in a variety of different ways. In accepting volunteers (upon interview), we aim to place people where they can make the most of their skills to the benefit of the organisation and our visitors.

Training is provided for all the following aspects of volunteering and while attendance at training sessions is compulsory, this is not onerous. Should you wish to join us, we require a commitment of regular attendance and a commitment to learn. In return, we offer rewarding work, complementary tickets, a subsidised lunch and a conservation magazine, among other benefits. **Volunteers must be over 18.** There is no upper age limit as long as you are fit and active – we especially welcome applications from newly-retired people.

Below are details of volunteering opportunities.

Education Volunteers

Education Volunteers are trained to cover a variety of different activities, all designed to enhance the visitors' day out and provide information on animals and conservation, through fun and educational activities.

Typical activities include:

- presenting touch tables and display specimens (skins, skulls etc) for public handling.
- running the craft centre, offering activities such as badge-making.
- roving at animal exhibits answering visitors' questions on the animals, giving directions.
- presenting ferrets, snakes, snails and millipedes to visitors (*LZ only - optional*)
- assisting at special events.
- presenting games and activities to raise awareness and funds for the conservation of animals in the wild.
- leading guided tours.
- providing commentaries (*Whipsnade only*)

Education Volunteers are flexible and can do most, or all, of the above activities as-and-when required and having had appropriate training. Applicants must be open, friendly people who enjoy meeting people and giving good service.

Library Volunteers (London Zoo - weekdays only)

The Zoological Society of London owns the world's finest and most extensive zoological library which has been operating since the 1820s. Volunteers working in the library will be involved in shelving books and journals, researching and answering questions from the public, assisting library conservation volunteers in cleaning and repairing books, labelling and filing photographs and slides, and many other activities. It is not recommended for people suffering from asthma. It is desirable, but not essential, that applicants should have previous experience of working in a library.

Membership Volunteers (weekdays only)

The Development Department is responsible for generating funds from a variety of sources, including membership, animal adoptions, individual and corporate donors as well as trusts and foundations. We are looking for volunteers to help one day a month with a variety of administrative duties, which can include the processing of new memberships, adoptions and renewals, and helping with special events.

Office Volunteers (weekdays only)

For those who prefer an indoor and office-based role, there are opportunities to give a helping hand in departments all round the Zoo/Park in activities such as mailouts, sorting and filing slides, photocopying, typing, analysing questionnaires and any other administrative help a department may require.

IT Volunteers (weekdays only)

If you have good IT skills, you may be able to help us give one-to-one tuition to those staff who have only a basic level of computer skills and need to gain more competence. You would need to be familiar with either Word 98 or Word XP. Knowledge of Excel 2000 and PowerPoint 2000 would also be an advantage. This voluntary work need not be on a regular basis.

APPLYING FOR VOLUNTEER WORK

1. Complete an application form (downloadable) and return to either the London Zoo or Whipsnade address given on the form, or email to the address below, by the end of January 2006 at the latest.
2. Where there are vacancies, you will be called in for interview.
3. Upon acceptance, the first four attendances are considered an induction period.
4. On becoming a fully fledged volunteer, we require you to attend some training sessions and to make a commitment to attend on a regular basis.

NB 1. There is no direct contact with the animals, besides those mentioned above, but they are all around you!

NB 2. Volunteering is not the same as gaining a placement for work experience.

There are limited places: please see the section on the website regarding work experience placements, or contact the number below if this is what you are interested in.

Tel: 020 - 7449 6554

Email: education.administrator@zsl.org.