



ECCO Leadership Program 2010 Application

Dear ECCO Leadership Program Applicant,

By filing out this application you have started the journey to a better tomorrow, not only for yourself but for your family and your community. Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo Youth Programs offer developmental opportunities, both personal and professional, while providing necessary service to the institution and its overall mission.

Enclosed, you will find a brief summary of the **ECCO Leadership Program that begins on Wednesday, January 13, 2010**, as well as a Youth Programs Application. You will need to *fill the application out fully*. Along with this application you will need to provide the following:

2 Letters of recommendation – These letters can come from any reference not related to you that can speak on your character. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers, pastors, supervisors, club leaders, coaches, school administrators, program supervisors, employers, community leaders, etc.

AND

1 Self Written Essay – Essay must be at least *1 full page* written or typed but must be double spaced with a font no larger than 12pt. Possible topics include:

- Your reasons for wanting to be a part of the program and what you can offer to the program.
- What you see as important current environmental issues for today's middle school and high schools, as well as, which issues are important to you personally.
- What you hope the world will be like for your kids and how you will help make those changes.

AND

Your most recent report card – *Please note that your grades/GPA will not determine whether you get into the program. We use this information for reporting and statistical purposes only.

Once the application packet is complete, send it back to the Zoo by mail or by drop it off at the Lowry Park Zoo ticket booth. Please make sure you mark the envelope: **"LPZ Teen Programs – ECCO."** Once received, we will send you a letter notifying if you have or have not been accepted.

All applications are due by Friday, December 18, 2009.

If selected, please be aware that you must have proof of a negative TB test taken within the past year and a tetanus shot taken within five years. Also, there is a \$35 participant fee to cover material costs. Scholarships are available upon request.

If you have any questions regarding the program or the application process feel free to give me a call at 813-935-8552 ext. 479. Thank you for your time and your ability to identify your own potential.

Sincerely,

Mary Corinne DeGood
Youth Programs Coordinator, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo



Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo

ECCO Leadership Program and Youth Development Center

The *Department of Youth Development* at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is committed to the positive personal and professional development of youth between the ages of 13 and 18. We carry out this commitment by providing programs that emphasize our mission, "to connect people with the living Earth."

The ECCO (Education, Conservation and Community Opportunities) Leadership Program, a partnership effort designed to complement and expand the Zoo's existing Department of Youth Development offerings. The ECCO Leadership Program is designed to work with the Zoo's educational goals of being a positive force for conservation and education, as well as reflecting responsible stewardship of the earth's natural resources. The mission is to empower youth ages 13 to 16 by equipping them with the resources and skills necessary to make positive structured change in their own lives through self discovery and throughout their community by becoming civic ambassadors for the earth's environment through the practical application of conservation efforts.

The program provides youth with a semester long opportunity to experience the Zoo through activities designed especially for youth created by youth, focusing on leadership, animal husbandry and conservation, as well as, local and global environmental issues. Participants attend two weekly interactive workshops on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00pm to 5:30pm and work on projects that focus on team-building and technology skills as part of our on-site Computer Workstation. They have time for conducting school-based work with access to all Zoo and Youth Center resources during Center hours.

Over the semester, youth develop themselves on a personal, professional and social level, as well as, accumulate over 50 volunteer hours. Upon completion, ECCO graduates have the opportunity to continue volunteering and working with the Zoo in a variety of ways.

The ECCO Leadership Program is housed in the *Youth Center*, which is a safe place drop-in center for Zoo program youth (ages 13 to 18) from 3pm to 6pm every Monday and Wednesday to complete homework assignments or to just hang out with others. This Center is designed with teens in mind and provides the following amenities:

- **Comfortable group study areas and silent spaces** throughout the building allow youth the flexibility of coming to be with others or sit quietly to study, read or think in a safe place.
- **Computer Connections Workstation and Resource Library:** A six desktop and two laptop computer workstation that serves as data, research and education access area for all youth. The center is also equipped with a wireless network for those with personal computers and houses zoological and environmental resource books.
- **Transportation Options:** A bike rack, parking lot and bus stop are located within 30 seconds of the Center.

For more information, please contact the Youth Programs Coordinator,
Mary Corinne DeGood at 813.935.8552 Ext. 479 or mc.degood@lowryparkzoo.com

Sparking Community and Environmental Change on a Social Level

2010 Dept. of Youth Development Participant Application



I am applying for:	
	Zoo Crew Explorers
X	ECCO Leadership Program
	Summer Camp Internship

If you were referred by a past Zoo Youth Program participant, please list his or her name:

Name:			
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Date of Birth:	Home Phone:	Cell Phone:	
E-mail:		Other Phone:	
Mother's Name:		Work Phone:	
Father's Name:		Work Phone:	
Mother or Father's Email Address:			

For Informational Use Only

Do you have transportation to and from the Zoo, and if so what?			Shirt Size S M L XL 2XL 3XL
Do you know any languages other than English? If so, what languages?			
School currently enrolled:	Current Grade:	Current GPA:	
Are you enrolled in a lunch program at school? FREE REDUCED NONE	Race: (Optional)	Current Age:	
Please list all extracurricular activities:			

Emergency Contact Information (Other Than Parents)

Name:	Relationship:	Phone:
Name:	Relationship:	Phone:

Brief Medical History (Information has no bearing on hiring process)

Name of Physician/Clinic:		
Phone:	Address:	
Allergies (food, drugs, insects, etc.)		
Any known medical conditions:		
Have you taken a TB Test? YES NO	When?	Result:
Medications and reasons for taking:		

I have filled this application out to the best of my knowledge and understand that the application will be considered incomplete until the 2 letters of recommendation and essay from me describing why I want to be part of the program are submitted. I also understand the level of commitment needed from me and agree to adhere to this level.

Parent Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo Youth Programs Parent/Guardian Consent, Medical & Publicity Release Form

I, _____ (printed name), the undersigned parent or guardian of _____ (child's printed name), DOB _____ age _____ understand and agree to all the terms below as pertains to the Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo's (TLPZ) Teen Programs that we are participating in:

1. I agree to allow my child to participate in all TLPZ's Teen Program activities. Participation in said activities is purely voluntary, and if at any time we feel uncomfortable with the activities we may notify the instructor-in-charge that we do not wish to participate and accommodations will be made for us to either observe or not be involved in the activity.
2. I understand that we choose to engage in hands-on tasks as a part of this program.
3. I understand that a TLPZ employee/volunteer will explain any safety rules before participating. I agree that we have a responsibility to ask questions, clarify any rules, regulations or instructions that we do not understand or have any doubt about.
4. I understand that this program may involve riding in an electric-powered cart, train or horse ride wagon as a part of any tour associated with the program.
5. I agree that we have a responsibility to ensure our child's full participation in TLPZ's Teen Programs and will support that by checking on progress and offering any assistance as needed.
6. I understand that transportation to and from Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo is the responsibility of the child and parent/guardian. If lack of transportation plays a factor in my child's participation, I will contact TLPZ's Teen Program administrators and attempt to arrange alternative methods of transportation.
7. I understand that TLPZ staff has the right and responsibility to dismiss any participant for disruptive behavior. No drugs, alcohol, stealing, smoking, or fighting will be allowed. In the event my child violates these rules or any other policies set by TLPZ, I understand I will be called to pick them up immediately, regardless of time.
8. I am aware that there are certain risks and dangers in any activity especially with those involving wild animals and/or endangered animals and their habitats and in consideration of participating, hereby waive, release, and hold harmless the Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, Lowry Park Zoological Society of Tampa, Inc. and the City of Tampa and their respective associated agencies for any liabilities, claims, demands, or cause of action that arise from our own negligence.

Medical Release

The law requires that parental permission be obtained for medical procedures on minors (under 18 years of age). The following consent form should be signed by a parent and/or legal guardian so that such procedures can be promptly carried out. We will make a genuine attempt to notify you in case of a serious emergency.

I, _____ understand that, in case of medical emergency, every effort will be made to contact me or the persons named in the "Emergency Contact Information" section on my child's application. If I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by TLPZ to hospitalize, anesthetize, and secure proper treatment for my child as named above. I also hereby grant permission to the staff of TLPZ to dispense nonprescription medication including, but not limited to, Tylenol and Advil, to my child unless otherwise specified.

Film and Photographic Publicity Release:

Yes () No () I hereby authorize TLPZ and its representatives to use, without obligation to me, any photographs and motion pictures taken of us as individual subjects for any and all publicity and advertising purposes they may designate in promotion of their not-for-profit mission.

Yes () No () We would like to participate in the group photographs for keepsake purposes and understand that these group photographs may be posted on TLPZs website.

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Participant Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____