



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