



Zoo Crew Explorers Winter 2009 Application

Dear Zoo Crew Explorers 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. Lowry Park Zoo's Teen 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 Zoo Crew Explorers program as well as a Teen 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 including but not limited to teacher, pastor, supervisor, club leader, coach, school administrator, program supervisor, employer, community leader, etc.

AND

1 Self Written Essay – Essay must be at least *1 full page* and include your reasons for wanting to be a part of the program as well as what you feel you can offer to the program. Essay can be written or typed but must be double spaced with a font no larger than 12.

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 you will need to send it back to the Zoo by mail or by dropping it off at the Lowry Park Zoo ticket booth. Please make sure you mark the envelope: **“LPZ Teen Programs – ZCE”** Once received, we will contact you to set up an interview. Keep in mind that the selection process begins with this application and ends with your accepting the position. So be as professional as possible in all cases from essay to interview.

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,

M.C. DeGood
Youth Programs Coordinator, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo



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Zoo Crew Explorers Program

Brief Description

This professional and personal development internship program provides youth 16-18 years of age with an opportunity to work in several areas in the Zoo, including animal care, education, and operations. These areas offer essential developmental components adding to the teens' overall appreciation of the natural world and the role the Zoo plays in it. In addition to working in their departments, participants are responsible for conservation presentations, animal interpretation, special community projects, and conducting Zoo improvement surveys. During the school year, the teens are also tasked with various programs and projects that assist in developing skills ranging from budget management to public speaking and from project design to journalism with a once a month interactive workshop. To ensure strong youth program commitment to its community, the Zoo Crew Explorers program will be involved in neighborhood initiatives, which may include walks for a cause, after-school programs, local trips and partnerships with other youth program organizations. All of the skills learned will enable participants to be better prepared for life after graduation while leaving the program inspired to treasure the natural world and act wisely on its behalf.

“It’s a program for youth that’s fun, rewarding, educational and inspiring. Lowry Park Zoo is committed to providing all the resources necessary for us to succeed when we get older.” - *Previous Zoo Crew Explorer*

“By working in the Animal Ride Department, I have gained a lot of important skills that I will need in life. Because I have to answer so many questions, I am more confident and have better public speaking skills that I have learned from the great people I work with.” - *Previous Zoo Crew Explorer*