



**KING CONSERVATION
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

**BROOKFIELD ZOO
CHICAGO**

College Internship Program

Animal Care Specialist Intern

Department

Animal Care & Programs

Work Group or Team

Throughout Zoo

Season/Term

Winter (mid-January start through end of April),

Level of Commitment

Full-time (35+ hrs per week)

Pay Rate

Unpaid

Summer (late May start through mid-August),

Fall (Late September start through December)

Position Summary

These positions contribute to the success of Brookfield Zoo Chicago by providing exceptional daily care to the zoo's animals every day. Internship opportunities are available in a variety of areas across the zoo and vary from season to season. Specific opportunities also vary based on each department's needs.

These internships are intended as a career learning experience for students/individuals interested in the fields of biology, conservation, zoology, ecology, or other related fields. Interns will gain exposure to animal care, husbandry, and training, while playing an integral support role to the animal care staff. These experiences will provide interns with conceptual knowledge of animal husbandry and hands-on practical experience in the day to day responsibilities of an animal care specialist. Successful interns will work both independently and under staff supervision to complete daily tasks. Our goal is to give interns a well-rounded experience and basic skills necessary to begin a successful career in animal care.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Interns will receive hands-on experience while assisting with daily keeper duties and will learn about the many aspects of captive animal management and health care, including training techniques, behavioral enrichment, animal nutrition, exhibit design, record keeping, animal behavior, population management, and many other skills that are necessary for success in a modern zoo environment.
- Assist with daily operations and work in close proximity with a variety of animals in a respectful, professional, and reliable manner.
- The culmination of the internship will be an intern-designed project that furthers animal husbandry and welfare practices at Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

Requirements & Specifications

- At least one year of college is required, but some require more. Please review each area's specific requirements at www.brookfieldzoo.org/animalcareinternships.
- Must be willing to accept the internship as an unpaid position and commit to a minimum of at least 10-12 weeks, up to 40 hours a week.
- Candidates should be able to maintain a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and desire to learn; Candidates should possess the ability to work cohesively in a team or be trusted to work independently.
- Applicants should be available to work during the entire term of the internship, including any weekdays, weekends, holidays, and evenings that may fall within the internship term.
- The daily activities of an animal caregiver are often very strenuous physically. Applicants must possess the ability to stand, kneel, or squat for long periods of time. Interns may be expected lift up to 50 lbs on a daily basis and should be comfortable working in a variety of weather conditions, including working outside in inclement weather, working in very warm climates, and working in very cold temperatures. In some cases, interns must be able to swim and be comfortable around deep water. Please review each area's specific requirements at www.brookfieldzoo.org/animalcareinternships.
- Candidates must possess a genuine interest in animals and their welfare.