Hello!

I am the Volunteer Manager at Blank Park Zoo. Our education department is looking for volunteers to help with our education programs.

The Blank Park Zoo education department offers a variety of programs for children one year of age through elementary school. In 2018 the education department reached over 53,000 people and conducted over 1,200 programs.

I would like to work with your department to see how we can involve students, in the formal and informal education field, to volunteer with the Zoo’s education department.

I feel we can also work with the education department to give students this same type of experience. Students would have the opportunity to work with different age groups in a hands-on learning environment.

We can offer students volunteer or intern experience. Information about the volunteer and internship program can be found on the Zoo’s website:

We are looking for volunteers to help with the following education programs:  https://www.blankparkzoo.com/support-the-zoo/volunteer/

**Homeschool Assistant:** Volunteers will work with and assist the education department with homeschool classes once a month. Education staff will lead the class, volunteers will help greet participants & parents, keep supplies in order, and provide additional eyes, ears, and hands in the classroom. Volunteers must be available on the 1st Friday of the month September - April. There may be opportunities for volunteers to lead classes or be animal presenter trained, if they feel comfortable.

**Early Childhood Program Assistants:** Volunteers will work with and assist the education department with onsite classes for preschoolers ages 1 - 4. Education staff will lead the class, volunteers will help greet participants, keep supplies in order, provide additional support and be hands on in the classroom. There may be opportunities for volunteers to lead classes or be animal presenter trained, if they feel comfortable.

**Education Animal Presenting:** Additional training and time commitment required. Education Animal Presenters assist the education department with presenting animals to the public. This can be done in an informal or formal setting. Volunteers must be comfortable handling a variety of animals and comfortable speaking with the public. Training is offered throughout the year.

**Exhibit Education Guide:** Volunteers are trained on specific exhibit animal artifacts and interactive games. Must have an outgoing personality, enjoy interacting with people of all ages, and have some knowledge or willing to learn about nature/animals/ecology. Volunteers will need to attend training on specific exhibit.

We would like to be a resource your students can use to learn and grow as an educator and help students fulfill any service hours or internships the department may require.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.
Thank you,

Chris

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