

Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center College Internship Program

Introduction

Student interns are a valuable resource to the Wildlife Center. The students often arrive with a lot of ideas and skills that can benefit our projects, programs and animal care. The students work a predictable, regular schedule and work 6-8 weeks or more. We will spend quite a bit of time mentoring these students, they in turn provide a valuable resource and they are next generation of “wildlife conservationists.” Many are passionate about “spreading the word” to their fellow students and communities.

Objectives for Interns:

To teach students the basic procedures and protocols involved with wildlife education and rehabilitation. They will develop and practice skills of animal husbandry/triage, environmental programming, and handling/enrichment for program animals directly from professionals in their field of interest.

At the conclusion of an internship, students will be able to:

1. Identify the mission of the Center and the role of rehabilitation and education in the community.
2. Understand the basic tasks involved in operating the education department and the programs offered to the public
3. Understand the basics of animal first aid, and follow through triage.
4. Identify at least 3 species of each animal group (mammal, reptile, bird) and know a general history of each.
5. Carry out husbandry duties for at least 4 species of education animals and how to properly handle those species.
6. Read, comprehend and record pertinent logs and forms related to daily operations.
7. Plan and carry out one enrichment/training project for 1-2 species.
8. Handle 1-2 animals for a public presentation and utilize appropriate interpretive skills to speak to the public on behalf on the Center during a program with staff.
9. Learn basic habitat and nutritional needs for species rehabilitated.
10. Identify individual tasks, prioritize than and carry them out.
11. Complete an assigned project as assigned.

Once accepted, students can also choose from a number of different research projects. To accomplish these goals, an intern will be assigned different tasks daily and work with every staff member at the Center. Each staff member will have specific tasks, assignments, and training they are to accomplish with the intern. Interns will work directly under the supervision of the Wildlife Center Managers.

Contact Information:

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