

# Lake Metroparks Wildlife Center

## Wildlife Rescue Internships

### Introduction:

College level 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. Opportunities year round.

**Valid Ohio Driver’s License required.**

### Objectives for Interns:

To teach students the procedures required when dealing with a wildlife rescue emergency. Students are needed to rescue injured and/or orphaned wild animals and transport to the wildlife center for treatment. We are also looking for “traveling educators” to assess wildlife concerns, such as orphaned wildlife and nuisance wildlife, to assist our local citizens with a wildlife friendly solution to their problems. Uniform, equipment, and vehicle will be provided by the center. While the student’s top priority will be wildlife rescues, the basic procedures and protocols involved with wildlife education and rehabilitation will also be covered. They will develop and practice skills of animal husbandry/triage, environmental interpretation, and handling/enrichment for program animals directly from professionals in their field of interest.

*At the conclusion of an internship, students will have gained experience in the following:*

1. Interpret and control a wildlife emergency rescue situation with proper education and handling techniques.
2. Assess wildlife concerns related to orphaned and nuisance wildlife in the community.
3. Identify the mission of the Center and the role of rehabilitation and education in the community.
4. Understand the basic tasks involved in operating an education and outreach program.
5. Understand the basics of wildlife first aid and triage.
6. Identify at least 3 species of each animal group (mammal, reptile, bird) and know a Natural history of each.
7. Carry out husbandry duties for at least 4 species of education animals and how to properly handle those species.
8. Plan and carry out one enrichment/training project for 1-2 species.
9. 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.
10. Learn basic habitat and nutritional needs for species rehabilitated.

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