



Smithsonian Institution

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES SUMMER 2009

Behind-the-Scenes Summer Volunteer Program:

This summer the Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer Program (BVP) is offering a special summer only volunteer program that provides 16 & 17 year old students with weekday opportunities to work behind-the-scenes in Smithsonian museums and offices.

Age requirement: Summer volunteer positions are for **16 and 17 year olds only**.

Duties: Varied tasks in libraries, archives and administrative offices. Most opportunities are in the natural sciences and administrative offices.

Requirements:

- Students must be **16 or 17 years of age at the time application is received in BVP.**
- Minimum commitment: **20 hours per week for 8 consecutive weeks.**
- Applications must be received by **May 15th.**

A copy of the application can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.si.edu/volunteer/behindsc.htm>

Parents of minors must complete and sign “A Consent to Treatment” form which can be found at: <http://www.si.edu/volunteer/parentconsent.pdf>. An interview will not be scheduled with the applicant until this completed form arrives in the Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer office.

Once application and a signed “Consent to Treatment” form are received applicants will be contacted to schedule an in-person interview to discuss skills and interests and review specific volunteer opportunities. **An appointment will not be scheduled with anyone other than the applicant.**

For further information contact:

Behind-the-Scenes Volunteer Program
Smithsonian Institution
202-633-5253
e-mail: bvpvolunteer@si.edu

Smithsonian American Art Museum (SAAM) Education Office Gallery

Programs:

Interactive Cart Volunteer

The SAAM Education Office seeks volunteers to present our Art à la Cart program. These carts are located through out the museum and have a range of objects and activities for children—and adults—to touch from taking their own digital photograph to figuring out how Native Americans used a bison bladder.

Duties:

Volunteers will introduce a gallery-related theme to families and individual visitors using hands-on objects. Cart themes are:

- George Catlin: How and why he painted Native American culture in 1830's
- Bison as Shopping Mall: How Native Americans relied on bison
- Sculpture: Additive and Subtractive
- Photography: Point of View
- Found Objects: Trash to Treasure
- Day in the Life of a 19th Century Child

Age requirement: 16-17 only

Carts are staffed on weekends, 12:45-4:15 pm, presenting 1-4 pm and on weekdays, during summer, 12:45-4:15 pm, presenting 1-4 pm

Volunteers must be comfortable working with visitors and be able to stand for 20 minutes

For further information contact:

Susan Nichols 202-633-8542

The Naturalist Center:

The Naturalist Center is a natural history museum collection/reference facility for the serious student or amateur naturalist. At the Naturalist Center you step into the world of a scientist, where 36,000 natural history and anthropology specimens are available for public study, five days a week, Tuesday through Saturday. The Center is located in Leesburg, Virginia.

Duties: If you are into hands-on independent learning, you can't find more things to get your hands on than at the Center. Docents are actively involved in helping visitors uncover clues they need to solve their own natural history mysteries. Whether you are working with students or maintaining the resources you are sure to learn a lot yourself. Visitor assistance and collections management activities (i.e., labeling, numbering, listing or typing labels and maintaining sections of the Center's natural history or anthropology collections).

Requirements: Open to high school students 16 years of age or older. Volunteers must have a strong interest in one of the natural sciences or anthropology and ability and desire to work with a high degree of accuracy and patience. The minimum service is 6 hours a week. The maximum service is 35 hours a week (5 days). The minimum total service = 60 hours.

Please Note: Volunteer appointments for applicants 18 years and older will be subject to successful completion of a background investigation.

For further information contact:

Helene Lisy, Assistant Manager
Naturalist Center
741 Miller Drive SE, Suite G2
Leesburg, VA 20175
703-779-9712 or 1-800-729-7725
e-mail: lisyh@si.edu

Friends of the National Zoo TEEN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

~~Friends of the National Zoo Teen Volunteer Program offers a variety of summer opportunities for teens between 13 and 17 years of age. If you have any questions, please call 202-633-3053.~~ **FILLED**

Class Aide Program

Class Aides assist FONZ teachers during the Summer Safari Day Camp by interacting with children during class activities, helping supervise the class on Zoo walks, and helping with classroom set-up and clean-up.

Age Requirement: 13-15 years old

Special Qualifications: Volunteers in this program must be interested in working with children in grades Kindergarten through 5th, be flexible, have a good imagination and a sense of humor, and be willing to walk the Zoo in Washington's summer weather.

Time Commitment: Two weeks (Monday through Friday) with a four- or seven-hour shift per day; a minimum of 40 hours.

Training: A mandatory 5-hour weekend training day on June 13 plus independent training activities.

Questions:

Rebecca Sohmer
Teen Volunteer Supervisor
sohmerr@si.edu
202/633-3053

Senior Class Aide Program

This program is an opportunity for older teens to demonstrate leadership, organization, and interpersonal skills. One Senior Class Aide will be assigned to each teacher to help supervise Class Aides, assist the teacher with lessons, and interact with children, parents, and staff.

Age Requirement: 16+ years old

Special Qualifications: Volunteers in this program must be interested in working with children in grades Kindergarten through 5th, have good communication and leadership skills, imagination and a sense of humor, be flexible, and be willing to walk the Zoo in Washington's summer weather.

Time Commitment: Two weeks (Monday through Friday) with a four- or seven-hour shift per day; a minimum of 40 hours.

Training: One mandatory weekend training day on June 13 plus independent training activities.

Questions:

Rebecca Sohmer
Teen Volunteer Supervisor
sohmerr@si.edu
202/633-3053

How Do You Zoo? Program

How Do You Zoo? is a hands-on exhibit that teaches children about the many career possibilities at the Zoo. Kids can explore an animal keeper's office, veterinary hospital, commissary, and animal exhibit, learning about jobs in these areas through role-playing. Teen volunteers oversee the exhibit, interact with young visitors, and help conduct programs for scheduled groups from the D.C. Department of Recreation.

Age Requirement: 14+ years old

Special Qualifications: Volunteers in this program must be interested in working with children, be flexible, have a good imagination and a sense of humor, have good communication and leadership skills, and be willing to be on their feet for a busy shift.

Time Commitment: Two weeks (Monday through Friday) for six hours per day; a minimum of 60 hours.

Training: A mandatory three-session weekday training on June 22, 24, and 26.

Questions:

Rebecca Sohmer
Teen Volunteer Supervisor
sohmerr@si.edu
202/633-3053

Horticulture Program

Volunteers assist the Zoo gardeners tending the Zoo's many gardens and landscaped areas. The National Zoo places special emphasis on the interconnectedness of all living things. The grounds and gardens are educational as well as decorative. Volunteer tasks include all forms of gardening.

Age Requirement: 16+ years old

Special Qualifications: Volunteers in this program must be in good physical health and have a tolerance for being outdoors in the extremes of Washington weather.

Time Commitment: One week (Monday through Friday) for six hours per day; a minimum of 30 hours.

Training: On-the-job.

Questions:

Rebecca Sohmer

Teen Volunteer Supervisor

sohmerr@si.edu

202/633-3053

Exhibit Greeter Program

Exhibit Greeters welcome visitors to the Smithsonian National Zoo at the front doors of the Invertebrate Exhibit. Using educational tools and objects, along with information acquired during training, volunteers will answer general questions about the Zoo and the Invertebrate Exhibit, explain the purpose of controlled-access exhibits at the Zoo, and maintain a tally of the number of visitors entering the exhibits.

Age Requirement: 16+ years old

Special Qualifications: Volunteers in this program must have good communications skills, the ability and desire to work with people of all ages, the ability to work independently, and have a tolerance for the extremes of Washington's summer weather.

Time Commitment: Twelve 3-hour shifts; a minimum of 36 hours.

Training: A mandatory two-session weekday training on June 23 and 25.

Questions:

Rebecca Sohmer

Teen Volunteer Supervisor

sohmerr@si.edu

202/633-3053