

Title: Reptile Department Internship

Description and Expectations: Interns will work only with non-venomous reptiles. Interns will gain experience with the daily care and exhibit maintenance of a wide variety of reptiles. Not only will interns learn about the care of the animals in this collection but also how to present relevant information to guests. With proper training and approval interns will be trained on animal handling to provide informal guest interaction opportunities.

Interns will be expected to follow the safety guidelines set forth by the keepers they are assisting. Many of our reptiles are potentially dangerous animals and working in behind the scenes areas provides the opportunity for dangerous situations. There will be zero tolerance for interns who do not follow safety guidelines. Interns will be expected and required to interact with a diverse team of animal programs staff, interns, volunteers, and guests. Interns will be expected to follow the directions of paid staff for their personal safety and safety/care of all animals. Must have a sincere interest in the particular field where the intern desires placement. Interns will be expected to work irregular schedules including weekends and holidays if applicable during placement. This internship is a physically demanding experience and will require intermediate levels of strength and flexibility as well as the ability to work outdoors in all types of weather conditions. Uniform shirts will be provided to all interns upon start of internship.

Responsibilities:

- ❖ Animal Care: daily husbandry, exhibit maintenance, animal observations (alligators), and diet/enrichment preparation, record keeping, and observing animal training.
- ❖ Interns will directly work with only non-venomous ectotherms such as snakes, large and small lizards, and tortoises.
- ❖ Interactions: informal interactions with Zoo guests and potentially more formal animal handling during shows.
- ❖ Journal: All interns are required to complete either an observation based research project, experiential journal, or other deliverable as determined by internship area.
- ❖ Research: Become familiar with Species Survival Plans (SSP), as well as natural history, current research, and conservation studies related to animals in area of internship.
- ❖ Other related duties as assigned.

Requirements:

- ❖ Minimum 1 year of college with 2.5/4.0 overall GPA.
- ❖ Proof of recent tetanus shot (within last 5 years) and negative TB test (within last year) required **PRIOR** to start date. All tests/vaccinations are at the applicant's expense.
- ❖ Must submit to drug testing prior to start of internship and prove clear throughout internship.
- ❖ Ability to lift up to 50 pounds.

Notes:

Interns will be evaluated regularly on performance and knowledge. Naples Zoo reserves the right to dismiss an individual from the keeper internship at any point during the internship.

Wages: All Naples Zoo Internships are Unpaid