



CTS Application Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Zoo Miami Foundation. As a CTS volunteer, you are about to begin an educational experience that will be significant in the preparation of a future career.

Who can be a Zoo Miami Foundation Conservation Teen Scientist (CTS) volunteer?

Anyone in grades 9th -12th or entering 9th grade is welcome to apply. Since space in the program is limited, we cannot guarantee that all applicants will be accepted.

What do Conservation Teen Scientist Volunteers do?

- **Exhibit interpretation:** engage visitors by educating them on the natural history and threats of the animals in the collection and highlighting conservation actions visitors can do to help.
- **Animal encounters:** train on handling animals from the Critter Connection area and engage visitors while providing an educational message (Applies after being in the program for 1 year)
- **Networking:** Meet professionals from a variety of fields including veterinary medicine, animal science, research, business, education, and more! Many of our volunteers who stay local after graduation use this as an opportunity to move into an internship or job.
- **Participating in one or several of the Specialist Teams:** Photography, citizen science, Everglades education
- **Customer service** throughout the zoo
- **Special events:** Easter Egg Safari, Zoo Boo, Tiger Awareness, etc.

When can I apply?

The application and letters of reference are available online throughout the year. We accept application all year round. **All completed applications must be turned in via mail or email by April 30th, 2019.** A complete application includes the application, essay, and 2 reference letters. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

How do I get selected?

After all the completed applications have been received, the selection committee will carefully and methodically evaluate each applicant. **Selected applicants will be invited to come to the Zoo for an interview on May 11.** This is a highly competitive program and only a limited number of applicants will be accepted.

Is there a cost?

Selected participants are asked to pay a non-refundable \$50 fee only for the first year of the program. **Please do not send any money with your application.** Fees will be collected during the student/parent orientation in the form of check or cash.

Is there any training involved?

The selected students will be required to participate a week long training program from June 17th-21st from 9:30am-4:00pm each day. Attendance is mandatory. If any days are missed the individual will not be in the program and we have to reapply the following year.

Does this count toward my community service hours?

Yes. Hours do count toward school community service hours as long as the training is completed. If you do not complete the training, then you will not get credit for training hours.

Completed Application Includes:



1) Application Form

When filling out the application form, please use blue or black ink.

2) Reference Letters

Along with your completed application form, we will need two letters of reference filled out that are included in this file. Please choose a non-relative who can attest to your character, capabilities, sense of responsibility and experience. Reference letters are acceptable from teachers, counselors, employers, coaches, or church leaders.

3) Essay

Please describe in a minimum 2 paragraph essay why you want to join the Conservation Teen Scientist Program at Zoo Miami. Your essay should address what you hope to experience; what skills and strengths you feel you have to offer the zoo; what experiences you have had that should help you in this position and what you hope to achieve by participating. All essays should be typed, in 12-point Times New Roman font with double spacing and one inch-margins all around.

Please mail complete application package to:

**Zoo Miami Foundation
Attn: CTS Coordinator
12400 SW 152nd Street
Miami, Florida 33177**

**ZOO MIAMI FOUNDATION
CONSERVATION TEEN SCIENTIST (CTS)
VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**



GENERAL INFORMATION

Last Name First Name Phone Number

Address

City State Zip Code

Email Address Age Date of Birth

Grade entering Fall 2019 (Circle one): 9 10 11 12

Shirt size:

(Applies only if accepted into the program. You receive 1 shirt with the program fee and any extra shirts may be purchase for \$7.00 each)

Small _____

Medium _____

Large _____

X-Large _____

Other _____

Please list any medical concerns (allergies, medical conditions, medications, etc.). Use an additional sheet if necessary.

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name of Parent/Guardian Relationship

Cell Phone Number Home Phone Number

SIGN AND DATE

Please read and sign the following:

Applicant Agreement:

I agree that, if I am accepted into the teen volunteer program, I will attend the parent/student orientation meeting, training sessions, show up on the days that I have been scheduled (unless illness or family emergency prevents me from doing so); will call and notify staff immediately if I am unable to attend on my scheduled day; adhere to the program policies and procedures. I also acknowledge that I am personally offering services to the Zoo Miami Foundation and Zoo Miami solely for civic, charitable or humanitarian reasons, without promise, expectation, or receipt of compensation or benefits.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent / Guardian Agreement:

I understand the conditions under which my child will be volunteering, and I agree to support my child's application for participation in this program. If accepted, I will see that he/she attends the parent/student orientation meeting, training session, and all scheduled work days; and adheres to the program policies and procedures. In case of emergency, when a parent or guardian cannot be reached, I hereby give my permission to Zoo Miami to secure treatment for my child. I also authorize Zoo Miami to use my child's name and photograph as a participant in Zoo programs for publicity / educational purposes related to the Zoo. I understand that no compensation will be provided.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

**ZOO MIAMI FOUNDATION
 CONSERVATION TEEN SCIENTIST (CTS)
 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**



Teacher / Counselor / Professional Recommendation Form

Student Name: _____

Organization: _____

The above-named student has applied to become a volunteer at Zoo Miami. The student will be doing exhibit interpretation, working in close proximity to exotic animals, and providing supportive services for the Zoo. We would appreciate your honest evaluation of the applicant in the areas listed below.

How long have you known the above-named student, and in what capacity?

Please evaluate the applicant by circling the appropriate number.

Scale: 1=Outstanding 2=Excellent 3=Good 4=Average 5=Fair 6=Poor U=Unknown

Dependability	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Punctuality	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to work & communicate with peers	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to work & communicate with adults	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to communicate & interact with children	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Leadership skills	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to follow directions	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Ability to accept constructive feedback	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Degree of demonstrating proactivity	1	2	3	4	5	6	U
Degree of commitment	1	2	3	4	5	6	U

Please use the space below to comment on any other factors you feel would be helpful in evaluating his or her application. Thank you. (Attach additional sheet if necessary.)

 Signature and Title Date _____

May we contact you by phone if we have any questions? Yes (Phone #: _____) No

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