



February 2019

Dear Junior Camp Counselor applicant and parent(s)/guardian(s):

Thank you for your interest in Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society's Junior Camp Counselor program . Please read the following information before you begin the application process.

Junior Camp Counselors is a volunteer program for teens ages 15—17 (**Age requirement: must be at least 15 and no older than 17 by June 1, 2019**). This program is perfect for teenagers interested in biology, zoology, education, conservation, and related fields. Junior Camp Counselors aid our Adult Camp Instructors with hosting educational summer camps. Palm Beach Zoo hosts ten weeks of summer camp primarily for ages 5-10. Camps are one week in length, held Monday—Friday and we host multiple groups for each camp session. Select Junior Camp Counselors may have the opportunity to assist with Junior Zoo Keeper summer camps for older participants.

Each week of Zoo Camp offers a unique wildlife theme. As a Junior Camp Counselor, you will have the opportunity to help lead your assigned campers to experience amazing up-close animal encounters, animal exhibit visits, special behind the scenes tours and zoo keeping activities. You will also assist camp attendees with a variety of educational crafts, games and enriching conservation activities.

Palm Beach Zoo's Junior Camp Counselor position offers a real world learning experience, empowering youth to become conservation ambassadors and community leaders. We are seeking responsible, out-going and motivated teens to volunteer their time and talent to this rewarding program. Please note, Junior Camp Counselors of the Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society will not be responsible for directly handling animals, although volunteers may have the opportunity to experience animal contact through special camp encounters. Junior Counselors must make a minimum commitment of serving three full weeks of camp June—August. Teens may volunteer for up to five weeks of camp, as their summer schedule allows, but each week Monday—Friday must be served in full.

We require applicants to attend ONE short Youth Service Meet & Greet with a parent or guardian. This will be your chance to meet me and learn more about the Junior Camp Counselor experience. Meeting dates and times are as follows: **Saturday, March 16; Wednesday, March 20; and Saturday, March 23**, choose either **11 AM or 4 PM**. Please RSVP by email for the meeting you plan to attend, including the name of the applicant and accompanying adult. Email: ehitsman@palmbeachzoo.org

Your application must be accompanied by **two recommendation letters**: one from a past or present science teacher and another from an unrelated adult. If you are home-schooled, two recommendations from unrelated adults will be acceptable.

Youth Program Applications and recommendations will be accepted **by mail**, postmarked no later than **April 1, 2019** or delivered **in person**. **Applications by email and incomplete applications will not be considered. Please note: this is a competitive program and not all applicants will be accepted.** If selected for an interview, you will be contacted in April for scheduling. Junior Camp candidates accepted following the interview will be invited to complete mandatory Junior Camp orientation and training. Orientation dates are May 4 or May 11; training dates have not yet been determined. If accepted, an **\$80 tuition fee** is required. The fee covers the cost of a uniform shirt and badge; state mandated background check and also provides students with conservation education and mentoring by zoo professionals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin K. Hitsman".

Erin K. Hitsman,
Volunteer Programs Manager

2019 Junior Camp Counselor Application *(Must be filled out by the TEEN applicant, not the parent.)*
Application Deadline: Delivered in person, or postmarked by April 1, 2019.

Personal Information: (please print neatly)

Name: _____

Address (include city, state and ZIP code):

Phone: (____) _____ Alternate Phone: (____) _____

(Please indicate whose phone numbers these are: home, student's cell, parent's cell, etc.)

Applicant's email address: _____

Parent's email address: _____

Grade: ____ Age: ____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

School you currently attend: _____

Date of required program orientation you attended/will attend: _____

Who accompanied you to the orientation: _____

Emergency Contacts:

Name _____

Name _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (day) _____

Phone (evening) _____

Phone (evening) _____

Relationship _____

Relationship _____

Experience:

Please list your past work, volunteer experience, or clubs/groups to which you belong (i.e. teacher aide, babysitting, pet care, church groups etc). Please attach a separate page if you need additional space.

About Me:

Please rate yourself on the following statements by circling the number that corresponds to your answer:

1=Completely Agree

2=Mostly Agree

3=Agree a Little

4=Disagree a Little

5=Mostly Disagree

6=Completely Disagree:

I enjoy learning about animals. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I love the outdoors. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I am a conservationist. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I am comfortable being a leader. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I don't mind talking to kids I don't know. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I don't mind talking to adults I don't know. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I can be a role model for fellow volunteers. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I am responsible. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I am organized. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I am willing to try new things. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I am trustworthy. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I always complete tasks given to me. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
Other people describe me as outgoing. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I easily get along with other people my age. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I take responsibility for my actions. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I like to work alone. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I like to talk in front of groups of people. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I follow rules. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I respect my teachers. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6
I don't mind working with adults. -----	1 2 3 4 5 6

Essay Questions:

Please answer the following questions in your own words. Answers should be neatly printed or typed on a separate sheet of paper, with a maximum length of one page per question.

1. Why do you want to volunteer at Palm Beach Zoo? What do you think volunteering would help you accomplish now and for your future?
2. Please describe two instances that show your ability to show leadership or demonstrates your level and sense of responsibility?
3. Explain your comfort level working with, or mentoring children younger than yourself.
4. Please describe your experience and tolerance working outdoors in the Florida heat.

More about You! Is there anything else you'd like us to know? Use the space below to tell us!

Select T-Shirt Size (Adult Men's Sizes)

S M L XL XXL

Acknowledgement and Signatures:

Students participating in the Junior Camp Counselor program are expected to work under the same guidelines as Zoo Employees. If selected, Junior Counselors are required to report to work on their scheduled days. A typical work day is from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. with a half-hour lunch, but the schedule may vary based on the needs of the specific assignment, daily programming and staffing. In case of absence, it is the responsibility of the Junior Camp Counselor to contact your direct supervisor or the Volunteer Manager prior to the absence.

I understand that attendance of the Youth Service Meet & Greet paired with the completion and submission of this application does not guarantee my acceptance into the Junior Camp Counselor program. I understand that if I am selected, I must attend Junior Counselor Orientation and required training. I understand I must follow all policies and procedures of the Junior Counselor program, including uniform guidelines. I have considered my summer activities and agree that I will not miss more than three scheduled volunteer days.

I verify that all information in my application is correct, and I agree to the program guidelines.

_____ Signature of Applicant _____ Date

_____ Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date

Application Requirements Checklist:

- Online form submission; (link on Zoo Website—where you found this application.)
- Neatly written application;
- Neatly written or typed essays;
- Two letter of recommendation (one teacher, one unrelated adult);
- Written documents mailed or hand delivered.
- Attendance at Youth Meet & Greet.

**Please make sure your name is on each item.