



# AUSTRALIA ZOO

HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

PARTICIPANT, PARENT AND GUARDIAN GUIDE





Australia Zoo offers a number of volunteer programs, designed to provide opportunities to a wide range of individuals to gain industry specific knowledge and experience. Volunteer offerings include a school-aged program which has been developed specifically for students aged between 14-17 years of age.

All programs have minimum application criteria, as well as maximum participant numbers.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Before applying for the Australia Zoo's high school volunteer programs, please keep in mind:
- Minimum age for high school program participants is 14 years of age
- Australia Zoo's high school programs are available to students enrolled in Australian Education Institutions, including registration through Distance Education. Placements can be coordinated through your school or by individual applicants, with parental/guardian consent.
- Due to the current unpredictability surrounding border and travel restrictions, applications from Queensland students will be prioritised.
- Due to program popularity and availability parameters of high school volunteer programs, all applicants will be required to participate in an interview and selection process.
- All applicants will be advised whether they have been successful for placement following the completion of the interview process.
- Placement on all high school programs is at the discretion of Australia Zoo. All successful applicants will be offered program placement based on their assessed readiness level for the program and availability.
- No placements can be guaranteed until after the application and interview process is completed.
- Please do not pre-book or confirm a work experience placement with your school before confirmation of placement on a program is confirmed.
- It is important to note that all volunteers, including those participating in high school programs, should not have any expectation of direct animal interaction. This is due to a range of operational, legislative and safety guidelines and requirements; and animal welfare considerations.

***Participation within these programs does not provide a guarantee of future volunteer program placement or employment.***

If you have any questions or require further information/an application form, please contact the Australia Zoo Volunteer Department at:

**[volunteers@australiazoo.com.au](mailto:volunteers@australiazoo.com.au)**

Or if email is unavailable please call: **07 5436 2038**

# AUSTRALIA ZOO'S 'INTRODUCTION TO ZOO KEEPING'

Our Introduction to Zoo Keeping program is suitable for students aged between 14-17 years of age. The program introduces participants to animal care requirements and considerations in a zoological facility, within a supported and structured environment.

This program is facilitated within a supported and structured environment to assist learning outcomes.

The program incorporates educational components, as well as keeping related group tasks which provide the opportunity to consolidate and apply relevant skills and knowledge in a practical environment.

**This program will run over a 4-day period - Tuesday-Friday, from 9:00am to 3pm each day.**

Due to a range of operational considerations, the 'Introduction to Zoo Keeping' program will be available 4 weeks throughout the year. The program is only available during the periods highlighted below. Each program has maximum participant numbers.

Please note that no placements within the program can be guaranteed until after the interview process has been completed and no travel or accommodation commitments should be made until a confirmation of placement is made by Australia Zoo. Australia Zoo takes no responsibility for independent action outside of the outlined process and guidelines

When applying for this program, please complete the "Australia Zoo Volunteering - High School Programs" application form, which can be found on our website as an opportunity to gain a better understanding of what the industry is like.

*By completing a placement within the 'Introduction to Zoo Keeping' volunteer program, there is no guarantee of ongoing volunteer placements or employment at the end of your placement.*

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW 'INTRODUCTION TO ZOO KEEPING'

Daily and weekly activities within the 4-Day 'Introduction to Zoo Keeping' Program will be developed in accordance with operational requirements and may vary between programs.

Activities and individual participation will be at the discretion of Australia Zoo and in accordance with participant readiness levels.

Activities may include, but not be limited to, assisting with habitat cleans (raking, sweeping, weeding, scrubbing), animal observations and the preparation of diets and enrichment items.

Participants may have the opportunity to gain a range of knowledge and experience within our Mammals, Koala and Bird keeping departments, subject to operational availability.

The program will also incorporate educational workshops and presentations on a range of relevant industry topics, as well as daily debrief/review sessions.