



Animal Care Specialist Intern: Fishes & Marine Aquatics

Interns in this field will collaborate closely with animal care specialists to gain insights into the husbandry and management of a diverse range of marine and terrestrial animals, including fish, reptiles, invertebrates (both terrestrial and aquatic), amphibians, and small mammals.

Those interning with the marine aquatic workgroup will receive hands-on training in areas such as husbandry, life support systems, and other aspects of aquatic and terrestrial care.

Through their close collaboration with experienced staff and exploration of recommended reading materials, interns will gain practical experience in animal care responsibilities and learn various facets of managing animals in professional care.

Interns will be involved in diet preparation, exhibit maintenance, record-keeping, animal training, life support maintenance and design, and animal observations.

As part of their internship experience, each intern will undertake a research project focused on any aspect of animal husbandry of their choice. Suggested topics may include coral growth, coral fragmentation studies, light studies, and more.

AT A GLANCE

PAY RATE: Unpaid

HOURS/WEEK: Full Time (35+ hours/week)

COMMITMENT: 10-12 weeks

LOCATION: Onsite at Brookfield Zoo Chicago

PREREQUISITE: At least 1 year of college credit & experience

COLLEGE CREDIT: Available upon request



Position Details: Fishes & Marine Aquatics

Physical Requirements

Animal Care Specialist positions are physically demanding, and interns may be subjected to a variety of physical demands and environmental factors and exposures. Candidates must have the ability to perform essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations, such as:

- Ability to stand, walk, kneel, or squat for extended periods.
- Ability to lift up to 50 pounds regularly
- Comfort working outdoors in varying and extreme weather conditions, including inclement weather, extreme heat, and cold temperatures.

All interns, regardless of proximity to animals, must have an up to date TDAP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis) vaccination (booster within the last 10 years) and test negative for TB (Tuberculosis) within the last 12 months.

Scheduling Expectations

Brookfield Zoo Chicago operates 365 days a year. Schedules vary by position, but may include weekends, holidays, early mornings, and evenings. Successful interns exemplify a positive attitude, strong work ethic, an eagerness to learn, and an ability to work effectively both in a team and independently. Given the competitive landscape of professional animal care, candidates should be mindful of the following scheduling requirements:

- Must be willing to commit to 10-12 weeks in a term, not to exceed 480 total hours.
- Availability is required for the full internship term, including weekdays, weekends, holidays, early mornings, and evenings.
- Schedules may change based on animal and departmental needs, with advance notice provided whenever possible.
- Any anticipated scheduling conflicts should be disclosed during the interview process.

Preferred Qualifications

- Preference is given to those who have completed at least 2 years of college.
- Multilingual ability, Spanish fluency a plus.