



Animal Care Specialist Intern: **Hamill Family Play Zoo & Wild Encounters**

This dynamic program provides interns with the chance to work closely with a diverse range of species, including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. Within this workgroup, you'll encounter fascinating creatures such as reindeer, Nigerian dwarf goats, free-flight parakeets, Bennett's wallabies, toucans, and screaming hairy armadillos, among others. Each intern will be paired with a mentor from either the Hamill Family Play Zoo or Wild Encounters areas, allowing for cross-training in both sections.

Interns will gain practical experience by assisting with daily animal care tasks. They will learn about various aspects of animal husbandry, including monitoring and providing health care, training techniques, behavioral enrichment, animal nutrition, exhibit design, record keeping, animal behavior, and population management. These skills are essential for thriving in a modern zoo setting.

Each intern is expected to complete a project in which they research, design, and create a behavioral enrichment item for an animal in the department. During this project, interns may have the chance to collaborate with other zoo departments, such as nutrition, behavioral husbandry, and exhibits. Additionally, interns can pursue further projects with approval from the curator or guidance from their mentor.

AT A GLANCE

PAY RATE: Unpaid

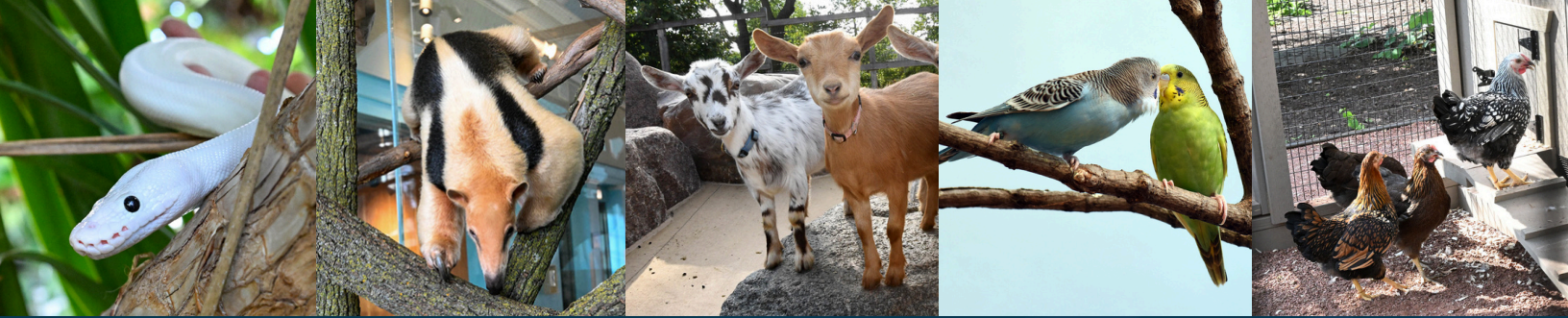
HOURS/WEEK: Full Time (35+ hours/week)

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: Hamill Family Play Zoo & Wild Encounters

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.