



Internship Program



Specialty Internship: Community Advocacy

This role supports Government Affairs and the King Conservation Leadership Academy teams by assisting with partnership outreach, special guest visits, event planning, and responses to requests from elected officials and community partners. Interns also research and help develop strategic partnerships and participate in on-site and community-based outreach to promote Brookfield Zoo Chicago's programs and initiatives.

- With Government Affairs staff and members of the Education and Community Engagement team, support partnership outreach and communication through special guest visits, event planning and execution, and response to various requests from elected officials, community engagement partners, and other non-profit entities. (30%)
- With Government Affairs staff and members of the Education and Community Engagement team, research and identify prospective partnerships that mutually highlight the assets of Brookfield Zoo Chicago and the communities served – assisting in the creation of proposals to strategically engage and mobilize communities of diverse stakeholders in conservation-minded advocacy and support community relation goals. (20%)
- With Government Affairs staff and members of the Education and Community Engagement team, participate in community outreach that brings awareness to the programs, events, and opportunities available through Brookfield Zoo Chicago. This is done both on-site, as well as in targeted communities within the Chicagoland area. (20%)
- Complete an independent project with objectives and details to be determined with mentor during the course of the internship, based on individual strengths, interests, and professional pursuits. (20%)
- Other related duties as assigned. (10%)

AT A GLANCE

PAY RATE: Unpaid

HOURS/WEEK: Part-Time (min. 16 hours/week)

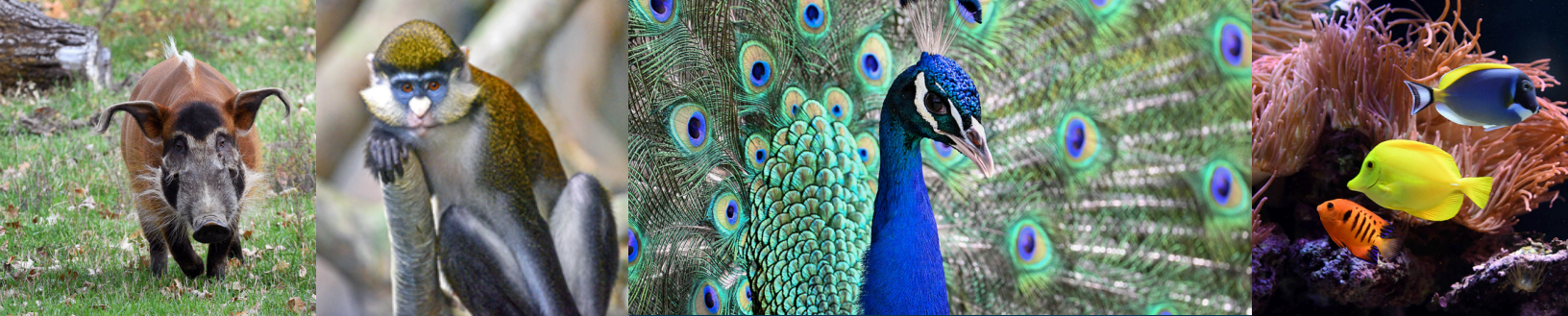
COMMITMENT: 10-12 weeks

LOCATION: Onsite at Brookfield Zoo Chicago

WORK GROUP: Education & Community Engagement + Gov't Affairs

PREREQUISITE: 1 year college credit OR current King Scholar

COLLEGE CREDIT: Available upon request



Position Details: Community Advocacy

Requirements

- One year of college credit and experience required. However, consideration will be extended to high school-aged individuals currently enrolled in, and within good standing with, the King Conservation Science Scholars program.
- Valid driver's license required.
- English fluency (reading, writing, speaking) and strong interpersonal skills required; multilingual ability, Spanish, preferred.
- All interns are required to complete either a final project or daily journal as part of their experience.

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 at least 16 hours per week for 10-12 weeks in a term, not to exceed 480 total hours.
- Any anticipated scheduling conflicts should be disclosed during the interview process.

Note: While this role does have onsite (in-person) obligations, it may also allow for some tasks to be completed remotely depending on the needs and projects of the team and the zoo overall. Candidates may inquire about detailed scheduling expectations with the hiring manager at the time of interview.

Preferred Qualifications

- Current enrollment in, or recent completion of, a collegiate program in communication, education, biology, liberal arts, library science, museum studies, environmental law, political science, public administration, or other relevant field or equivalent combination of related training and experience preferred.
- Multilingual ability, Spanish fluency a plus.