



**CONNECT  
CARE  
CONSERVE**

# **+ EARLY CHILDHOOD DOCENT (ECD)**

ECDs are interpretative guides who provide daily educational experiences to enhance family and child conservation learning in the Hamill Family Play Zoo (HFPZ).

## **+ Position Relationships**

Department: Education & Community Engagement / Mission-Based Programs

Reports to: Manager of Nature Play Programs and Adult Volunteer Program Manager

## **+ Primary Assignments and Expectations**

ECDs are asked to serve a minimum of 4 hours each shift, twice per month. Shift responsibilities may include:

- Assisting in facilitation of play with children, aged birth-10, and their families/caregivers in both the indoor and outdoor areas of HFPZ
- Helping activate conservation-themed early childhood educational programming, including gardening, costume play, mud and water play, art projects, crafts, and performing arts
- Supporting the care and cleaning of the HFPZ settings, including set-up, hourly disinfecting and end of day closing
- Interpreting BZC animals, biofacts, and conservation messages in HFPZ
- Handling small domestic animals for guest encounters and/or contact in HFPZ
- Participating in the BZC's special events, including Holiday Magic
- Answering general questions and providing general information about BZC, including HFPZ and its programming
- Notifying supervisor of any questions, concerns, and feedback from guests shared while on duty
- While in the park, notifying Security of any unusual circumstances and/or emergencies regarding guests or animals throughout HFPZ and the rest of BZC

## **+ Position Requirements and Specifications**

All ECDs must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be able to commit to minimum required service year-round
- Enjoy and/or have experience working with young children, aged birth-10, and their families/caregivers
- Successfully complete the current interpretive training process and may be asked to attend and participate in mandatory refresher training programs
- Demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Be committed to providing guests with the highest standards of customer service
- Be reliable and dependable
- Have experience and/or ability to work and interact effectively with a diverse multicultural audience
- Continue to contribute a minimum of 50 hours of volunteer service annually
- Upon acceptance, complete Adult Volunteer Program compliance training and forms and become familiar with Adult Volunteer Handbook

## + Desirable/Preferred Qualifications

- Volunteer and/or paid experience in a pre-school, children's museum, arts centers or working with young children in a similar setting preferred
- Multilingual ability; Spanish fluency a plus

## + Physical Requirements

All ECDs must:

- Be able to sit, stand, and/or move short distances for up to 4 hours at a time (*accommodation may be offered for volunteers who use motorized scooters and wheelchairs*)
- Be able to volunteer outdoors in different types of weather, especially unusually warm summer days and unusually cold winter days
- Be able to volunteer in a building that has varying temperature and humidity levels throughout the year
- Be able to stoop, kneel, bend, sit on floor, and pick up items from the floor
- Be willing and able to handle small domestic animals
- Be able to lift up to 10 lbs
- Be able to tolerate sometimes crowded, hectic, and noisy conditions
- Be able to tolerate the possibility of encountering a variety of odors and soiled circumstances, such as animal waste or guests, especially children, who become ill
- Be able to comprehend and retain knowledge of guest amenities/locations of animal exhibits and attractions, procedural knowledge including emergency procedures, and animal fact information; must be able to communicate this knowledge to BZC guests

3300 Golf Road  
Brookfield, IL 60513

708.688.8000  
info@brookfieldzoo.org



Brookfield Zoo Chicago is a private nonprofit organization operated by the Chicago Zoological Society on land owned by the Forest Preserves of Cook County.