Education Department  
Volunteer Program  
Camp Counselor (ages 15-17)  

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION  
The Camp Counselor program is designed for teenagers aged 15-17 looking to complete community service requirements. Camp Counselors must enjoy working with children ages 4-10 in a positive learning environment. Camp Counselors provide assistance to Zoo Camp Teachers during any number of 10 Zoo Camp sessions occurring in spring, summer, and fall and earn up to 20 hours community service per session. Camp Counselors can attend any number of 10 sessions per year and therefore the number of community service hours a Camp Counselor can earn in a year is 200.

AGE REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
Camp Counselors must be between the ages of 15 and 17 (no exceptions). Applicants that do not meet the age criteria will not be considered for the position. Camp Counselors volunteer Monday through Friday from 8:30am-12:30pm during the Zoo Camp session they sign up for.

Camp Counselor responsibilities include the following:
- Preparing crafts, teaching materials, name badges, daily snacks, folders, etc.;
- Greet campers, take roll, distribute t-shirts and name badges;
- Participate and lead morning exercises;
- Organize, distribute, and collect materials and supplies;
- Assist students with completing worksheets, crafts, or other assignments;
- Help keep track of students;
- Assist with end of the day clean-up and next day preparations;
- Teach, read, or present basic information with Zoo Camp Teacher’s approval.

Camp Counselors are expected to volunteer at least 20 hours in order to receive a letter of recommendation from Zoo staff. Camp Counselors that sign up for a shift but fail to appear without contact will be excluded from volunteering at the zoo indefinitely. It is strongly encouraged that Camp Counselors volunteer for more than one camp session.
APPLICATION PROCESS

Individuals interested in applying for the Camp Counselor program must attend one of three mandatory information meetings held in February, May, or September with a parent or guardian. The information meeting is free and dates and times will be announced on the volunteer information page. Camp Counselor applications will only be distributed at the information meeting.

Applications must be turned in within two weeks after the mandatory information meeting has occurred. Applicants are also required to submit a 200 word essay in response to three questions listed on the application.

Applications will be reviewed and if an applicant is considered for the Camp Counselor program, the applicant will be contacted to register for one mandatory three-hour training. Volunteer training dates and times will be announced when the dates for the information meeting is released.

Camp Counselor applications and training are valid for up to one year. Returning Camp Counselors must repeat the training after one year regardless of the number of camps they have attended as a Counselor.

Because of the nature of this position, applicants that are looking to complete court-ordered community service will not be considered.