Think you have what it takes to work for wildlife? Want to find out?
Apply for Zoo InternQuest at the San Diego Zoo!

Zoo InternQuest is a work-exploratory program offered through the San Diego Zoo. It’s designed to give high school juniors and seniors a real-world look at wildlife conservation through the eyes of our experts at the San Diego Zoo, Safari Park and the Institute for Conservation Research. This internship is for students who are considering a career benefiting wildlife. This internship is not an animal keeper in-training or a job shadow program. It is much, much more.

Zoo InternQuest started over 60 years ago as a way to find the next generation of wildlife conservationists! The program is a behind-the-scenes look at these careers at Zoo, Safari Park, and the Institute for Conservation Research. You might encounter experts in pathology, genetics, animal nutrition, horticulture, reproductive physiology, ecology, horticulture, or veterinary medicine who working hard to save species from the brink of extinction. Experts take you into their work area which can range from labs to field enclosures. Interns then share their experiences online by posting weekly blogs to the San Diego Zoo’s web site.

Zoo InternQuest applicant requirements
• Current student status is a high school sophomore or junior in San Diego County. Home schools included.
• GPA of 3.0 or above.
• Demonstrated interest in science, wildlife, conservation, and the community through extra-curricular activities.
• Two letters of recommendation, at least one from a science teacher.
• Good writing skills, illustrated by two writing samples within the application.
• Computer experience.
• Availability to commit to seven weeks of after-school sessions at the San Diego Zoo and/or Safari Park on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

Check out our web site!
Zoo InternQuest has their own blog on the San Diego Zoo’s web site! Interns post blogs of their adventures for “virtual interns” to read. Check out what previous interns were up to online.

Application details and deadline
Due to the unique nature of the internship, we can only accept up to eight interns per session. Eight interns for the fall session and eight interns for the winter session. Applications for either session are due by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28th, 2020.

To apply for either the fall 2020 or winter 2021 session, please do the following:
• Thoroughly read this application and the online information to understand the program description.
• Complete the information on this packet.
• Group interviews will be scheduled for the week of June 1st, 2020.
• Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 28, 2020 either by mail or hand delivery.

San Diego Zoo
Education Department: Zoo InternQuest
P.O. Box 120551
San Diego, CA 92112-0551
Name:_________________________________________________________________________________________________

Date of birth: ___________________________________ Preferred pronouns: ___________________________________

Home address: __________________________________________________________________________________________

City, State and Zip: _______________________________________________________________________________________

Home phone: ___________________________________ Parent’s phone: ______________________________________

Email: _________________________________________          Parent’s email: _______________________________________

School: __________________________________________________________________________    GPA: _______________

How did you first hear about Zoo InternQuest? _________________________________________________________________

Are you a first time applicant to the program?    YES       NO           Grade during the 2020 - 2021 school year:       11          12

Semester choice(s): Mark 1 (first choice) and 2 (second choice) ___ Fall Session (Oct – Nov)      ___Winter Session (Feb – Mar)

Please staple the requested documents and submit. No folders or plastic page protectors please.

1. List of all science courses completed and/or are currently enrolled in from 7th grade to the present. No transcripts.
2. List computer skills including platforms, software experience as well as your digital photography experience.
3. List of science and/or education experiences, activities, and honors (e.g., sports, science fair, summer courses, after-school classes, clubs, volunteer work, paid experience, etc.) since 7th grade.
4. Write one paragraph about your favorite animal as if you were writing for a magazine geared toward young readers.
5. Write a 500 to 1,000 word personal essay describing your interest in the Zoo, biology, or conservation related career or field of study. Essay will be critiqued for writing skills.
6. Two brief letters of recommendation: one from a science instructor; and a second from a teacher, career counselor, school administrator, club leader, or other adult not related to you who can recommend you for this experience.
7. If you are reapplying for Zoo InternQuest, please submit new writing samples.

I have read the program description and requirements of the InternQuest Program, and wish to apply for a position.

Applicant’s signature: _______________________________________________________  date ___________________

Parent/guardian’s statement: I understand how this program operates and agree to facilitate his or her participation if selected.

Parent/Guardian’s signature: __________________________________________________  date ___________________

Print name: _________________________________________  Relationship to the applicant ______________________

Principal’s statement: I have reviewed this student’s application, and recommend him or her for your consideration. I understand early dismissal from school may be necessary for Zoo InternQuest participation.

Principal’s signature: _________________________________________________________ date ___________________

Print name: ________________________________________________________________________________________