

Los Angeles Zoo Paid Summer Internship Program

About the Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens

The Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens receives nearly 1.8 million visitors per year and is owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles. The Zoo is home to more than 2,300 mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles representing more than 270 different species, of which more than 58 are endangered. We are a conservation organization, and our goal is to shape a better future for wildlife, people, and our shared world.

About the Paid Internship Program

As a City resource, we are continually looking for more equitable ways to engage the diverse communities of Los Angeles. **The L.A. Zoo is hosting 10-week paid internships for college students from over-excluded identities in the zoo and conservation fields.** Interns will work directly with industry professionals on real world projects, then summarize their practical knowledge and present on their experience at the conclusion of their internship.

The L.A. Zoo will hire 15 interns for the Summer 2022 Internship Cohort, running from June 12 - August 20. There are internships available in various Zoo Divisions, including Conservation, Learning & Engagement, and Animal Health (Nutrition).

The ideal candidate has:

- Interest in animals, zoos, conservation, and/or the communities of Los Angeles;
- Commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility;
- Internet access for telecommunications with Zoo staff;
- Must be at least 18 years of age.

Salary: \$16.10 / Hour

Time Commitment: June 12 - August 20, 2022, 20 hours/week, for a total of 200 hours. Specific shift days and hours are dependent on the internship project for which the candidate is selected.

Location: Hybrid, with regular work at and nearby the Los Angeles Zoo. Depending upon the assigned division, work locations may include the LA Zoo, Griffith Park, other City Department locations, or virtual. All internships have a virtual professional development component where a reliable internet connection and compatible device are required.

Conservation Internship

Conservation Interns will work directly with the Zoo's Conservation team, gaining real world application of science, research, and conservation skills. In July 2021, the Zoo released its first Conservation Strategic Plan (CSP), which guides its conservation efforts and expands its positive impact over the next five years. Key to this CSP is an increasing focus on local conservation projects

that engage our community members, improve native biodiversity, and help meet the goals of local stakeholders in Los Angeles. This internship will provide the opportunity to:

- Gain career experience in zoo and conservation fields
- Develop technical skills to conduct background research, data collection, and analysis through project-based learning.
- Interns will choose a scientific study related to the native wildlife nearby or on the Zoo campus with peers, enact it, and present on their findings.
- Gain understanding of conservation, the role of the LA Zoo in it, and the importance of building accessibility and intergenerational stewardship capacity.
- Additional opportunities would include conservation engagement opportunities with the Zoo's Conservation Committee and work with communities and partners to build a networking base to introduce students to conservation related careers and opportunities.

Position Expectations:

- Travel over uneven terrain up to 4 miles per day, sometimes transporting up to 15 pounds of supplies
- Work outside and in varied weather conditions
- Position self to observe plants and wildlife, including at ground level
- Inspection of natural sites to complete habitat assessments

Nutrition Center Internship

Nutrition Center Interns will work directly with the Zoo's Nutritionist, gaining real world application of science, research, and animal health. This internship will provide the opportunity to:

- Gain knowledge and career experience in zoo and animal health fields.
- Develop technical skills to prepare animal diets, including washing, cleaning, peeling, dicing, grinding, and measuring as required.
- Learn how to identify and collect edible plant species to distribute browse to keepers throughout the Zoo.
- Expand office and record keeping skills by completing accurate data logs and orders.
- Under the supervision of the Zoo Nutritionist and Animal Care teams, evaluate animal health through understanding of balanced diets, body conditioning, and taste preferences.

Position Expectations:

- Some tasks will require operations of machines or equipment, including grinders, food processors, computers, etc.
- Some activities will require interns to move equipment or items weighing up to 50 pounds

Learning & Engagement Internship

The Los Angeles Zoo's Learning & Engagement (L&E) Division fosters lasting relationships between our communities, nature, and animals. L&E team members facilitate conversations about wildlife conservation, nature, and animal welfare with LA Zoo visitors and program participants. Additionally, the L&E team connects with the diverse communities across LA through outreach events and formal programs. This internship will provide the opportunity to:

- Gain knowledge and career experience in zoo and environmental education fields.
- Develop public communication skills while engaging with the public in dialogue about habitats, wildlife, conservation, and animal welfare.
- Participate in community outreach opportunities to gain experience working with diverse audiences.

Position Expectations:

- Willing to develop public communication skills
- Able to move over uneven terrain and be stationed on Zoo grounds or in our communities for extended periods of time

How to Apply

As we strive to have a staff that is representative of the diverse communities of Los Angeles, this internship program is specifically available to applicants who identify as Black, Indigenous, people of color, people with varying abilities, and/or the LGBTQAI+ communities.

Your application should include:

- A resume or list of personal or professional experiences in written format.
- A brief letter, voice memo, or video explaining which internship(s) you would like to be considered for, and what excites you about the position(s) or working at the L.A. Zoo.

To apply, please submit your application materials to Curator of Equity Initiatives, Rachel Helfing (she/her), by email: Rachel.Helfing@lacity.org.

Application Deadline: Friday, March 18th by 5:00 pm PST.

COVID-19 Information

For candidates seeking initial City employment, in accordance with Los Angeles City Ordinance 187134, information regarding COVID-19 vaccination requirements as conditions of employment may be found at: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-0921_ord_187134_8-24-21.pdf

Join us to create a just and sustainable world where people and wildlife thrive, together.