Houston Zoo Collegiate Conservation Program
Internship Description

Applications due March 15, 2018

Are you interested in diving deeper into the world of conservation and becoming a member of the next generation of conservation heroes? Apply now for an internship with the Houston Zoo Collegiate Conservation Program sponsored by ExxonMobil.

Ten interns will be selected to train, learn, and collaborate for 10 weeks at the Houston Zoo and regional conservation partner locations from May 14, 2018 – July 20, 2018. Interns will receive a $1,500 stipend at the conclusion of the internship to offset living expenses during the experience. The stipends are sponsored by a generous donation from ExxonMobil.

Throughout the 10 weeks, interns will:

- Understand the role of action-oriented conservation campaigns
- Explore the elements that go into a zoo-based conservation organization including:
  - Conservation Education
  - Development and Funding
  - Marketing
  - Graphics
  - Public Relations
- Enhance teamwork and communication skills integral when working with others towards saving wildlife
- Learn from Houston Zoo global conservation partners, like Gabriel Massocato from the Giant Armadillo Project in Brazil
- Participate in networking opportunities with conservation professionals, Houston Zoo staff, and CEO Lee Ehmke

What past participants are saying:
“CCP took all of my preconceived notions about the field of conservation and spun them around. It opened my eyes to all of the possibilities in conservation, and the importance of it. Everything I choose to do will now have a basis stemming from this internship.”

“This internship has changed me and my view of conservation positively. I came into this internship with the passion of conservation and had no idea of the true beauty of this field. Because of this internship I was reassured of my decision to continue in this field. ”

“Getting hands on experience is so important to me and I really loved this internship. I appreciate Houston so much more than I did before. I’m actually aware of all the nature we have now and I definitely think I’m more outdoorsy now! Conservation education is fascinating and I really hope to work at a zoo someday.”
Requirements

- Each intern must be a currently enrolled undergraduate student who will be returning to college as a full-time sophomore, junior, or senior student for at least the fall semester after the internship. Before the internship can begin, the student must provide the Houston Zoo with written enrollment verification from the college confirming the student’s enrollment status. Student ID cards and/or phone calls are not sufficient documentation. Official enrollment verification must come from a university’s registrar office. As a helpful tip, this documentation is the same paperwork that auto insurance companies require to confirm student driver enrollment.
- Must submit a complete online application including resume and cover letter by the deadline.
- Must be available for a Skype interview session at the end of March.
- Family members of board or staff at Houston Zoo or ExxonMobil are not eligible to be hired as interns of this program.

Expectations during 10-Week Internship

- Must be available May 14, 2018 – July 20, 2018 with flexible hours. General schedule of 30-35 hours per week, worked primarily Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM; some evenings or overnights required.
- 80% of this time will be spent at offsite regional conservation partners in the Houston area. Some of our 2017 regional conservation partners were the Galveston Bay Foundation, Armand Bayou Nature Center and Brazos Bend State Park.
- 20% of this time will be spent on Zoo grounds learning from Houston Zoo professionals.
- Collaborate on a culminating project, synthesizing information learned over the entire summer.
- Abide by all Houston Zoo policies and procedures, including safety protocol.
- Exposure to outdoor weather such as heat, humidity, and rain will be required.
- Housing and transportation to and from the Houston Zoo will be the responsibility of the intern.

Expectations Following 10-Week Internship

- Three months after internship – Participate in conference call to discuss behavior changes that interns have made since the end of the program and how the internship has impacted future education or career goals.
- One year after internship – Act as a mentor to 2019 Collegiate Conservation Program interns.