Salisbury Zoo
Volunteer Program

What is a Zoo Volunteer?
Zoo volunteers have an interest in wild animals, a positive attitude, and a willingness to learn. No experience is necessary—we will teach you everything you need to know.

What do Zoo Volunteers do?

Education
Volunteers help with education programs such as guided tours, live animal presentations, and school programs. Volunteers serve as on-site experts for our guests and share their knowledge of animals, nature, and conservation with visitors to encourage an appreciation of wildlife and inspire conservation of our natural world.

Special Events
Zoo volunteers can help out with special events such as Halloween Happening, Critter Christmas and Earth Day. Volunteers participate in event preparation, educational activities, animal enrichment, games, and fun.

Education Program Animals
Zoo volunteers have the opportunity to help with the care and handling of the Education Ambassador Animal collection. These animals are used in education programs at the zoo, in schools, and at community events. Volunteers must complete a pre-requisite number of hours and attend additional training to be involved.
Volunteer at the Salisbury Zoo

What are the Benefits of being a Zoo volunteer?

- **Giving back to your community**—Give back to the community by helping a non-profit organization that is a valuable resource in the community. Volunteers also contribute to local and global conservation with their work at the zoo.

- **Learning**—Zoo volunteers are always learning through on-the-job training, continuing education opportunities, and trips to other facilities. Volunteering at the zoo is a great way to learn more about something that interests you or to gain valuable experience for a future career.

- **Sharing**—Volunteers have the opportunity to share their knowledge and their interest in nature, animals, and conservation. Volunteers often help to influence zoo visitors’ misconceptions about, attitudes regarding, and behaviors towards animals and nature.

- **Friendships**—Make new and lasting friendships by interacting with people that share your interests and participating in the social opportunities available to volunteers.

- **Fun**—Interacting with visitors, sharing knowledge about animals and nature, and spending time at the zoo is fun and rewarding.

How Do I become a Zoo Volunteer?

1. If you need more information, attend a Docent Open House Session.
2. Fill out the application portion, detach and return it to the Education Department with your $50.00 training fee.
3. Attend all sessions of Docent Training.

What is required of Zoo Volunteers?

- No experience necessary—we will teach you everything you need to know.
- Must be at least 16 years of age.
- Volunteers are required to complete the in-person training sessions, online training, and associated homework/quizzes.
- There is a $50.00 training fee to offset the cost of the docent shirt and name badge.
- Volunteers are required to serve a minimum of 50 hours each year (including 12 hours continuing education).

Questions?

Contact the Salisbury Zoo Education Department at 443.944.0636