



Nature Play Internship

Do you love working with young children, nature and outdoor play? Are you interested in getting hands-on experience with environmental education, nature-based play, student engagement and curriculum development? The Birmingham Zoo's Nature Play Internship Program may be just for you!

The Birmingham Zoo's Nature Play Program is aimed at connecting families and children with nature through different nature play activities. Activities may range from unstructured outdoor play such as rolling down a hill or balancing on logs to more structured activities such as nature art or leaf identification.

Applicants must be college students or recent graduates majoring in education, child development, natural, physical or cultural sciences, communication, natural science interpretation or recreation and resources management. As part of your internship, you will receive training in methods that were developed by Birmingham Zoo's ROADMAP program in partnership with Denver Zoo and the National Association for Interpretation's Certified Interpretive Guide Course.

JOB TITLE: Unpaid Nature Play Intern

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This supervised education/interpretation position interacts directly with guests, volunteers, and other Zoo staff. Upon completion of training, the placement consists of:

- Assisting in development and leading of nature play experiences for individual guests and family groups. Will also have the opportunity to assist in education programs and activities throughout the Zoo.
- Working closely with other Education staff members and volunteers in locations such as Alabama Wilds, Henley Park and the Medical Properties Trust Nature Play Space.
- Learning to make positive contributions to enhance the guest experience at the Birmingham Zoo.

DATES OF SERVICE: Unpaid internship lasts length of semester.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Applicants will be evaluated according to their knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas:

- Experience or interest in early childhood education, nature-based play, experiential learning and/or environmental education
- Ability to work with all age groups with a focus on young children
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Customer-service oriented and enthusiastic about providing guests an enriching experience
- Ability to communicate effectively, both speaking and writing

APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

- Must successfully pass a required background investigation
- Requires frequent walking for long distances and over uneven terrain; will also stand for long periods of time
- Will be expected to wear the approved Zoo uniform and observe the same personal appearance standards required of all Zoo Adult Volunteers and Staff
- Must be able to work a set schedule of 10 hours per week, which will include flexible hours, evenings, holidays, and/or weekends
- Frequent exposure to the outside elements and summer heat can be expected

BENEFITS

- Extensive, hand-on experience in environmental education
- Observe and participate in interpretive training, conservation lessons, and nature play activities
- Receive first-hand experience in an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institution.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply!