Interested in helping the environment through educating the community? Love working with animals? Read on to find out about Lehigh Valley Zoo’s conservation education internship!

About the zoo

The Lehigh Valley Zoo is located within the Trexler Nature Preserve six miles north of Allentown, PA. The zoo is 29 acres and features about 300 animals representing more than 100 different species. Lehigh Valley Zoo is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

The conservation education department at the Lehigh Valley zoo promotes environmental awareness and conservation in the community through our outreach programs, onsite programs, educational talks throughout the zoo, zoo tours, summer and seasonal camps, and more.

About the internship

Conservation education interns will be trained in the handling and care of the education animals. Animals used for presentations include invertebrates, mammals, reptiles, birds, and amphibians. Interns will also assist with and eventually run their own onsite educational programs, nature hikes in the preserve, zoo tours, camps, and creek studies at Jordan Creek. As interns you will also be asked to conduct research about our animals for various reasons such as gathering program information or when submitting ideas for new enrichments for an animal.

Who should apply

Education internships are open to undergraduate, graduate, and recently graduated students. This internship is meant for anyone pursuing a career in conservation, biology, environmental science, education, or another related field. Preferred candidates would have a background in education and/or environmental sciences or biology related field. They should also show strong communication skills, an ability to work alone or in a group, an ability to think creatively and show critical thinking along with good problem solving skills.

**Start dates and duration of internships**

The Lehigh Valley Zoo offers internships throughout the year. Each internship typically lasts 13 weeks but the duration is determined by the director of conservation education. Start and end dates are flexible, spring internships usually run from February to May, summer internships from May to august, and fall internships from September to December. Most internships are part time and unpaid. However in the summer full time internships (forty hours a week) are offered which may include a stipend. Interns may also receive course credit for the internship from their respective institutes as arranged by the student and director of conservation education.

**Why this internship**

This internship gives students an opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned through years of schooling to a hands-on experience. The internship will allow students to learn new skills and improve upon already developed ones including public speaking, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, and many others. It will also give students an opportunity to build on his/her resume and create a network within the professional world.

**To apply and ask questions**

Please send your resume and cover letter to Cherlyn Vatalaro director of conservation education at [cvatalaro@lvzoo.org](mailto:cvatalaro@lvzoo.org)

**Important Information**

**\*The Lehigh Valley Zoo does not provide housing for interns. It is the responsibility of the intern to arrange and pay for housing and associated costs of living for the duration of the internship.**

\*Interns will need to provide and cover cost of Criminal Background Check, Fingerprint Clearance, and Child Abuse clearance. Clearances must have satisfactory results.