

POSITION TITLE: Play Partner
CLASSIFICATION: Volunteer
DEPARTMENT: Education
REPORTS TO: Children's Zoo Program Manager/AmeriCorps Assistant
DUES/HOURS: One-time \$20 fee and minimum of 80 hours/year (includes 9 hours of training). Must work in 4 hour shifts

JOB REQUIREMENTS

A. Summary of Responsibilities

A "Play Partner" is a volunteer who is primarily responsible for observing and facilitating children's play experiences as well as providing resources for zoo patrons in the activity play spaces located within the "Our Big Backyard" exhibit. Must be enthusiastic, willing to learn, and foster a safe environment for our patrons.

B. Essential Job Functions

1. Actively participate in three training sessions (3 hours each) for a total of 9 hours.
2. Work a 4 hour shift weekly or bi-weekly. You may choose from an AM shift or PM shift.
3. Be able to open and close shift with your team, and arrive and leave at scheduled times.
4. Deliver developmentally appropriate play based activities
5. Monitor a variety of Play Stations including:
 - **Indoor** - Nature Swap (requires computer use), Great Room, Greenhouse
 - **Outdoor** - Drip Drop Water Play Station / Creativity Play Station / Sticks and Stones Building Station / Treehouse
6. Assist with proper maintenance of station's resources
7. Appropriately communicate and liaison with staff and zoo patrons
8. Assist in the supervision, safety, and welfare of children and zoo patrons
9. Adhere to RWPZoo's "Wardrobe and Appearance" guidelines and be professionally identified by wearing a provided "Play Partner" staff shirt.

WORK ENVIRONMENT

The Play Partner Volunteer program operates within the Roger Williams Park Zoo's "Our Big Backyard" exhibit. It is a 1.2 acre space developed to create meaningful connections to nature through play and exploration. While performing the duties of this job, the Play Partner has access to an office and bathroom facilities.

Work environment is a combination of outdoor and indoor settings. We expect a fun and friendly atmosphere, kindness, teamwork, professionalism, and new ideas. In return we can provide development of early childhood teaching skills, enhancement of play work expertise, service hours for secondary school and higher academic requirements, and increase in native wildlife knowledge.



Play Partner Volunteer Application

***Must be 16 or older to apply for this position**

***Application Deadline –March 21st, 2012**

Please type or print clearly

Name: _____

Date: _____

Address (Street, City, State, Zip code): _____

Email: _____

Contact Phone: _____ (please specify if it is cell phone or home)

1. How did you learn about the Play Partner program at Roger Williams Park Zoo?

2. Why do you want to volunteer as a Play Partner at Roger Williams Park Zoo?

3. Please briefly describe any experiences or skills that you feel would be useful as a RWPZ Play Partner (such as working with children, the public, professional training, etc.)

4. What is your availability (circle all available times):

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00am-1pm	9:00am-1pm	9:00am-1pm	9:00am-1pm	9:00am-1pm	9:00am-1pm	9:00am-1pm
12:00pm-4pm	12:00pm-4pm	12:00pm-4pm	12:00pm-4pm	12:00pm-4pm	12:00pm-4pm	12:00pm-4pm

5. Are you fluent in any languages other than English? **Yes** **No** ***Please List if Yes***

6. How comfortable are you with leading play based activities? **Very Somewhat Not at all**

7. What does PLAY mean to you?

EDUCATION		
High School	Location	Area of Interest
Business/Vocational/College	Location	Major area of study
Graduate School	Location	Major area of study
Currently attending school?	If so, please name school & field of study:	

Please list any additional skills, interests, hobbies or areas you are interested in volunteering for: _____

Please remember to complete the attached Background check and mail or fax (fax # 401-941-3988) your completed application to:

**Susannah Brooks
Volunteer Manager
Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Ave
Providence, RI 02907**

If you have any questions about being a Play Partner, please contact the Children's Zoo Program Manager: **Chris Hitchener - chitchener@rwpzoo.org or 401-785-3510 x353**



**VOLUNTEER APPLICATION
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK FORM**
(For applicants 18 or older only)

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

SOCIAL SECURITY # _____--____--_____

Disclaimer

I, _____, request that the Bureau of Criminal Identification of the Department of Attorney General for the State(s) of:
(list all states lived in for past 10 years)

_____ to make available to me any criminal record that I may have on file with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation.

I hereby waive and release any and all manner of actions, cause of actions, and demands of every kind, nature and description, arising from any release of criminal records and requests therefrom, whatsoever against the state(s) of
(list all states lived in for past 10 years)

_____ Bureau of Criminal Identification, the Attorney General, and the employees of the Attorney General's Office in both law and equity, which I may now have or in the future may have.

Signature of Applicant

Date