

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO AND RHODE ISLAND ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PLAY RESEARCH INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE AT THE ZOO

Please mail completed application to:

*Manager of Volunteer Resources
Roger Williams Park Zoo
1000 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907*

OR

Email completed application to: volunteer@rwpzoo.org

Application Deadlines:

Rolling Deadline

Please direct all questions to:

Samantha Polon, Manager of Hasbro's Our Big Backyard
spolon@rwpzoo.org OR (401) 785-3510 x353

Play Research Internship

Position Description

POSITION TITLE: Play Research Internship
CLASSIFICATION: Intern (unpaid)
DEPARTMENT: Education
REPORTS TO: Our Big Backyard Program Manager/Mgr. of Volunteer Resources

Summary of Responsibilities:

Play Research Interns are valued members of the Our Big Backyard exhibit team within the Roger Williams Park Zoo. Our Big Backyard is a space dedicated to encouraging free play and nature exploration in young children. In this space, Interns are primarily responsible for conducting visitor studies through observation and facilitation of children's play experiences. This is a volunteer position. It is unpaid and there is no housing provided.

Essential Position Functions:

1. Develop and execute an observational research project with guidance from the Manager of Hasbro's Our Big Backyard.
2. Develop new surveys and observation methods for looking at how children play and how families use the Nature Swap program located in Our Big Backyard.
3. Conduct visitor observations and administer visitor questionnaires using pre-developed study tools.
4. Create a document summarizing your findings collected from the visitor studies by the end of the internship.
5. Deliver developmentally appropriate play-based activities and monitor Play Stations:
 - Indoor: Nature Swap (requires computer use) and Activity Room.
 - Outdoor: Drip Drop Water Play Station, Creativity Play Station, Sticks and Stones Building Station, Beyond the Fence Play Area, and the Treehouse.
6. Help maintain volunteer resources.
7. Communicate and liaison with staff, volunteers, and zoo patrons.
8. Assist in the supervision, safety, and welfare of children and zoo patrons.

Qualifications:

1. Must have completed at least one year of college-level coursework in a related field.
2. Must be at least 18 years old and have completed high school. Age verification may be required.
3. Ability to pass a background check upon selection as an intern.
4. Arrive on time and stay for the entire shift (unless you have supervisory approval to the contrary).
5. Attend a HOBBY Specific initial training and a zoo-wide GIG training prior to start of internship. (specific dates TBD).
6. Ability to work independently, as well as part of a team.
7. A strong interest in informal education or nature play programming.
8. Ability to work outside, in all weather.
9. Effectively support the mission and priorities of Roger Williams Park Zoo.
10. Adhere to all policies described in the Roger Williams Park Zoo's Volunteer Handbook.
11. Must be flexible and willing to learn.
12. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are required.
13. Experience with and/or the ability to work and interact effectively with a diverse, multicultural audience. Bilingual ability and Spanish proficiency are a plus.

Benefits:

1. Free admission to Roger Williams Park Zoo for yourself for duration of the internship.
2. Good resume builder with potential opportunities for professional development.
3. Opportunity to earn credit for college (dependent on college requirements).

Roger Williams Park Zoo/ Rhode Island Zoological Society

(RI Zoological Society is a nonprofit entity dedicated to the development and enrichment of Roger Williams Park Zoo.)

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Applicant Information

Applicants will receive consideration without discrimination based upon any legally protected class, including but not limited to race, age, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, physical or mental disability, protected impairment, military status, veteran status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or ancestry, or other legally protected status except where a bona fide occupational qualification exists.

Full Name: _____ Date: _____
Last *First* *M.I.*

Present Address: _____
Street Address *Apartment/Unit #* *City* *State* *ZIP Code*

Phone: () _____ E-mail Address: _____

How did you hear about the internship program at RWPZ? _____

Are you legally prohibited from performing work of this nature in the U.S.? YES NO

Have you worked/interned/volunteered for this organization in the past? YES NO If yes, when and in what capacity? _____

Have you ever applied to work, intern, or volunteer for this organization in the past? YES NO If yes, when? _____

Are you at least 18 years old? YES NO

Previous Employment/Internship/Volunteer Experience

From	To	Employer Name	Telephone()
Position Title		Address	
Immediate supervisor and title		Summarize the nature of work performed and position responsibilities	
From	To	Employer	Telephone()
Position Title		Address	
Immediate supervisor and title		Summarize the nature of work performed and position responsibilities	
From	To	Employer	Telephone()
Position Title		Address	
Immediate supervisor and title		Summarize the nature of work performed and position responsibilities	

(By providing the above information, you are authorizing RWPZ/RIZS to contact your former employers regarding your suitability for the internship.)

May we contact your present employer? ___ Yes ___ No

Education

EDUCATION	School Name	#Yrs. Attended	Degree Received	Subjects Studied/Major
High School				
College or University				
Graduate School				

Professional/Academic References

Please list two professional or academic references. Please do not list relatives. By providing these references, you are authorizing Rhode Island Zoological Society to contact these individuals regarding your suitability for the internship.

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Years Known: _____

Company Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Full Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Years Known: _____

Company Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Paper Interview Questions

****Please submit a separate page with your application answering questions 1-5)****

1. Why are you interested in the internship?
2. What are your expectations for the internship and what do you hope to gain?
3. What skills or talents do you have that would make you a good candidate for the internship?
4. Are you seeking school credit for this internship? (circle one) **Yes** **No**

***If you answered "yes" to question #5, please include with your application a copy of the requirements for credit and a letter from your advisor verifying that you will be receiving credit.*

RIZS Smoke-Free Workplace

By Rhode Island law, smoking is prohibited in all enclosed facilities within places of work without exception. This includes common work areas, auditoriums, classrooms, conference and meeting rooms, private offices, elevators, hallways, medical facilities, cafeterias, employee lounges, stairs, restrooms, vehicles, and all other enclosed facilities. All interns must abide by these smoking restrictions.

Disclaimer and Signature

I hereby certify that the information stated above is to the best of my knowledge true, correct and complete. I understand that any misrepresentation of facts or any false or incomplete statements in this application are sufficient cause for dismissal if I am accepted as an intern. I authorize the investigation of all statements contained in this application in return for being considered for an internship position. I know that my completion of this application form does not mean that any internship positions are available. I acknowledge that RIZS has not made any promise that I will be accepted as an intern. I understand that RIZS has no obligation to offer me an internship position, and that I have no right or entitlement to an internship position. I understand that any offer of an internship position by RIZS is for no definite period of time and that either RIZS or I may terminate the relationship at any time without prior notice and without any reason or cause. I have read the Play Research Internship position description, and certify that I am able to perform the duties described therein with or without reasonable accommodations. I understand that I am applying for an unpaid position. No payment or remuneration will be given in exchange for my service. I further certify that I am applying for this internship position out of a desire to further my personal education and development, as well as to further the civic and community benefits which the Zoo provides.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____