



Junior Zoo Keeper Volunteer Program

2019

1. Please provide a letter of recommendation from a teacher or non-family member to accompany this application.
2. Follow all instructions carefully while completing your application.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Parent/Guardian Phone _____ Relationship _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Parent/Guardian Phone _____ Relationship _____

e-mail address (parent/guardian) _____ e-mail address (teen) _____ Student Phone _____

**Communication will be conducted primarily by email, directly with the teen applicant. Please be sure the email listed is one the applicant will be able to check regularly throughout the summer.*

Have you been a Junior Zoo Keeper before? **Yes** **No** If yes, what year(s): _____

QUESTIONS

1. If given the opportunity, what do you hope to gain from your experience volunteering at the Niabi Zoo? _____

2. What experience in the past have you had dealing with animals? _____

3. What experience in the past have you had dealing with the public? _____

4. What role do you think Zoos play and why do they matter? _____

5. **Available Summer days of the week** (Please rank in order of preference 1,2,3,4... and X out unavailable days)

Morning (9:30am-1:30pm): ___M ___Tu ___W ___Th ___F ___Sa ___Su

Afternoon (1:00pm-5:00pm): ___M ___Tu ___W ___Th ___F ___Sa ___Su

6. Do you have any plans this summer that would conflict with your JZK schedule such as a vacation, camp, etc.?

Yes No If yes, please explain: _____

7. How did you learn about the JZK Program? **School Media Website Event Zoo Other:** _____

8. Does the teen require accommodations for any special needs for which Zoo staff should be aware? **Yes No**

9. Has the teen ever been found guilty of a violation of a federal, state, or municipal law/ordinance? **Yes No**

If yes, please explain: _____

SELECTION PROCESS

This application must be submitted to the Niabi Zoo Education Department **no later than April 3**. Applications received after this date may not be considered for selection.

Interview Dates

Applicants will receive an email for an interview scheduled on one of the following dates for a specific time that falls within the listed timeframe. Group interviews will last 30 minutes. **Please rank your preference** for an interview date below, then rank the hour (1, 2, 3, or n/a for not available):

_____ Sunday, April 7, 2019	_____ 9am-10am	_____ 10am-11am	_____ 11am-12pm
_____ Wednesday, April 10, 2019	_____ 4pm-5pm	_____ 5pm-6pm	_____ 7pm-8pm
_____ Thursday, April 11, 2019	_____ 4pm-5pm	_____ 5pm-6pm	_____ 7pm-8pm

Selection for the JZK program will be announced through email by **April 19**.

TRAINING

All selected candidates are required to attend training sessions and should consider whether or not you are available before submitting your application. Alternative dates will not be offered. If you cannot attend training, unfortunately, you cannot be a Junior Zoo Keeper this year. The training dates are as follows:

- Training 1 - Saturday, April 27, 2019 - 12-4pm**
- Training 2 - Saturday, May 4, 2019 - 12-4pm**
- Training 3 - Saturday, May 11, 2019 - 12-4pm**
- Training 4 - Saturday, May 18, 2019 - 12-4pm**

Training Supplies:

All JZK's should eat lunch before attending training. Each JZK should bring the following to training:

- 3 ring binder to clip-in training packets
- notebook paper to take notes
- pen/pencil
- reusable water bottle
- snacks if needed

CONSIDERATIONS

Program Fee:

There is a fee to cover the purchase of the JZK uniform shirt and training costs. The fee for this program is **\$50 for Niabi Zoo Members** and **\$60 for non-members** and is due on the first day of training.

Assumption of Risk: The undersigned acknowledges and understands that activities undertaken by the volunteer may involve a certain degree of risk of personal injury and injury to personal property, which may result from the volunteer's participation therein. The undersigned further acknowledges and assumes all risk of injury and/or damage to the volunteer, which may result from any reason whatsoever.

General Liability Release: The undersigned hereby releases and waives any claims that the undersigned may now or hereafter have against Rock Island County Forest Preserve District and Niabi Zoo, its sponsors, trustees, officers, directors, employees or its assigns from and against any and all liabilities, losses, damages, costs or expenses of whatever kind or nature, including attorney's fees, which the undersigned may incur as a result of any injury to us or our personal property as a result of the volunteer's activities undertaken at Niabi Zoo including, without limitation, personal injury and damages thereof including loss of income, earnings, bodily injury, pain and suffering, emotional or mental distress and any and all medical expenses.

Statement of Non-discrimination: The Niabi Zoo provides programs that are accessible to the public without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religious, or political affiliations, or disability.

Statement of Understanding: I understand that volunteering for the Niabi Zoo is to serve in the capacity necessary for the benefit of the Zoo first and foremost. All other reasons for volunteering are secondary to the needs of the Zoo.

TEEN COMMITMENT – PLEASE READ COMPLETELY

I understand that I need to get a letter of recommendation from a teacher or non-family member to submit with this application. I understand that volunteering at the Zoo requires developing a unique set of skills through training, regular practice and a regular time commitment. I understand that I must attend all training sessions on the dates offered. After attending all required training sessions, I agree to commit at least 40 hours of service at the Zoo (one 4 hour shift per week over the course of 10 weeks). I understand that I can continue to volunteer throughout the year on weekends and at Special Events.

Signature of Applicant

Date

PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMITMENT – PLEASE READ COMPLETELY

I understand that if selected, my child will need reliable transportation to and from the Zoo for regular weekly shifts. I have discussed with my child what the commitment of becoming a Junior Zoo Keeper means and the responsibility of making such a commitment. I understand that the Zoo relies on its volunteers and it is important they arrive on time. If for some reason my child cannot attend his/her shift, my child will provide previous notice by email and phone so that other arrangements may be made with other JZKs. If my student misses a shift without notifying the Zoo, this will be considered a no call, no show, 3 of which can result in their dismissal from the program. I agree to provide transportation and all required support to ensure my child's success in the Junior Zoo Keeper program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

*Applications with the accompanying letter of recommendation can be emailed to education@niabizoo.com or they can be dropped off or mailed to Niabi Zoo, Education Office, 13010 Niabi Zoo Rd., Coal Valley, IL 61240