Internship Opportunities

The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center (TBZ) is a private, non-profit organization whose main mission is the conservation of the native fauna and ecosystems of Belize. Both the TEC and The Belize Zoo function as one unit promoting active stewardship of natural resources through environmental education and wildlife rehabilitation.

As a growing organization we welcome the help and knowledge of interns who are willing to whole heartedly devote their time and knowledge towards safeguarding, promoting and enforcing our main mission. TBZ extends a call to interested persons to volunteer as interns through The Belize Zoo Internship Program.

Main Goal Of The Internship Program:

To offer interns first hand experience working with our Animal Management Department

Specific Objectives:

Interns will be expected to:

- Be in good physical condition and able to effectively carry out physically involved tasks in a hot, humid, tropical environment
- Assist in the care and maintenance of all enclosed wildlife within their captive environment.
- Contribute to exhibit enrichment. This includes the improvement of enclosures, enhancement of viewer experiences for visitors, and enhancement of activities and positive stimulation for the wildlife.
- Be involved in landscaping, and pathway and signage maintenance within the Zoo.
- Assist with daily food preparation, wildlife feeding, exhibit maintenance, and enrichment. This may include:
  1. chopping up fruits, vegetables, and raw meat
  2. loading of feeding trays and buckets into wheelbarrows to be transported to exhibits
  3. collecting of plants and leaf litter for delivery into exhibits
  4. washing and scrubbing of concrete ponds, feeding bowls, management pens

- Observe medical and surgical procedures, or animal check-ups performed by Animal Management staff and veterinary colleagues as opportunities arise
• Participate in facilitating special zoo events, such as animal birthday parties

• Accompany TBZ's Education department on outreach education programs such as school visits, fairs, etc

• Conduct observational studies of animal behaviour on-site at the Zoo as needed. This practice gathers important information that is used by both Animal Management and Education.

How To Apply:

Interested person should:
Submit a letter of inquiry stating:

1. Reason for applying to the internship program
2. Brief summary of educational and professional background, any previous volunteer work and what he/she expects to gain through the internship.
3. Submit Resume, along with any other merits of qualification or experience. Including references is encouraged
4. Submit a medical certificate signed by a practicing physician stating health status including any allergies, or medication requirements, and prove of standard vaccines against tropical pathogens if needed.
5. The Application package should be e-mailed to: education@belizezoo.org

Selection Process:

1. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
2. The application package should be sent at least 8 weeks before expected time of internship.
3. Applications will take one week to process after which TBZ will inform the applicant whether his/her application has been successful via email.
4. All applications will be considered on individual basis. TBZ can accommodate a maximum of 2 interns at any given time.
5. There are no limiting dates for applications.
6. If his/her application is considered he/she will be expected to provide his/her travel information and expected date of arrival and departure.

Responsibilities:

Interns will be responsible for:

- All travel arrangements to and from Belize including visas and other travel documents and transportation cost from their point of entry to the Zoo.
- A fee of $300.00 USD per week, which includes coverage of all meals and accommodation at the TEC.
- Receiving vaccination for Tetanus, and a Tuberculosis skin test, and providing confirmation to TBZ of acquisition of these.
- Respecting the rules and regulation for Zoo staff, proper work ethics and proper dress.
codes for the task assigned.
  - Signing a disclaimer that relieves the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center of any responsibilities to interns travelling on their own or interns who decide to partake in activities outside of those specified by their supervisor

**TBZ will be responsible to:**

  - Provide meals and accommodations for the length of the internship, and a bicycle means of transport to the assigned daily work area.
  - Provide trained personnel to work and guide the intern during their stay
  - Offer a secure working environment to the interns
  - Answer any queries or concerns about their assigned task or responsibilities
  - Provide a certificate of achievement upon successful completion of the program.

**Duration of Internship**

TBZ Internship Program is designed for a minimum of **two** weeks and a maximum of **four** weeks.

**Our Internship Partners**

*The Belize Zoo is proud to be partnered with Personal Overseas Development (PoD Volunteer). PoD is a U.K based charity organization that works with in-country partners to provide ethical, inspiring, and well supported volunteering opportunities all over the world. Learn more about them [here](#).*
The Belize Zoo & Tropical Education Center welcomes all efforts in assisting and contributing to the conservation work put forth by the organization, however, reserves the right to end an internship based on intern performance and professionalism. Such a decision would be made by the TBZ management team, upon advisory by the immediate supervisor.

Internship reservations cancelled less than thirty (30) days prior to the starting date will incur a 50% charge.

In the event of a cancellation during fulfilment of the internship due to emergencies, refunds will be addressed on a case by case basis.