

# SDZWA Summer Internship Program



## THE INTERNSHIP

Duration: 12 weeks; 4 days per week (384-hrs)  
Dates: 5/20/24-8/9/24  
Stipend: \$5000 paid in 3 installments over 3 months.

## COME TO THE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is an international, nonprofit conservation organization with two front doors: the San Diego Zoo and the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. We integrate wildlife health and care, science, and education to develop sustainable conservation solutions. San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance is committed to saving species worldwide by uniting our expertise in wildlife care and conservation science with our dedication to inspiring passion for nature. **When wildlife thrives, all live thrives!**



## THE OPPORTUNITY

Gain knowledge and experience that will allow you to pursue a career in wildlife care and conservation science. Through tailored education courses, you will learn directly from the experts how to care for wildlife and how to encourage others to do the same.



# The Internship Program



## AT A GLANCE

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Apply through  
[www.sdzwacareers.org](http://www.sdzwacareers.org)

**Application Dates:** 1/15/24-1/28/24

#### Cover Letter:

SDZWA is looking for dedicated and passionate individuals hoping to begin a career in a zoological setting. Though this program focuses on wildlife care, other majors are encouraged to apply.

### SUMMER SCHEDULE

Start Date: 5/20/2024

End Date: 8/9/2024

12 weeks  
8 hours per day  
4 days per week

Locations:  
San Diego Zoo  
San Diego Zoo Safari Park

### DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED

- Wildlife Care
- Horticulture
- Library Science
- Communications

#### Extra Courses:

- Population Management
- Wildlife Welfare
- Horticulture and Nutrition
- Wildlife Behavior
- Interpretation Training



All applicants that are chosen will be assigned to a Host Department. This will be your home department for the following 12 weeks. You will also be assigned a Mentor to act as your guide and confidant throughout your journey. Though there may be only one intern assigned to each department, there will be ample opportunity for all interns to experience several departments and group activities will be provided.





Throughout your time with SDZWA, you will work alongside and learn from experts in wildlife care, behavior, welfare, conservation, veterinary care, nutrition, horticulture and more! You will gain hands-on experience and gain a deeper understanding of the day-to-day operations in a world-class zoological facility.

# What to Expect

**All participants will partake in special Education Sessions specifically tailored to increase your understanding of wildlife care and conservation science.**



**\*Optional excursions will also be available to increase the value of your experience in San Diego.**

Our locations:

San Diego Zoo: 2920 Zoo Dr. San Diego, Ca. 92101

San Diego Zoo Safari Park: 15500 San Pasqual Valley Rd, Escondido, CA 92027

Though public transportation is available around San Diego, personal travel arrangements will be required to insure transportation to the Safari Park.





# Capstone

Your summer will end with a farewell brunch at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. All summer mentors will gather to say goodbye to their interns and wish them good luck on their next adventure. You will also be giving a presentation to your fellow interns and our generous donors about what you learned over the summer.

## 10 minute presentation focusing on:

- Your research project
- What you learned throughout the summer
- Which course you enjoyed the most and why
- Your favorite moment
- Where you go from here



## Intern Workbook:

- Guided workbook to help you retain, reflect, and apply the skills and knowledge gained throughout the internship program.





# ADDITIONAL PERKS TO THE PROGRAM

100%

The number of past interns that said they would recommend SDZWA's Summer Internship program to other people looking for experience working for a Zoological organization.

100%

The number of past interns that found value in participating in the Summer Intern program.

- 4 guest passes for friends and family to use at either park location.
- 4 30% discounted admission tickets.
- Free entry to the Zoo or the Safari Park
- Access to team member premium product discounts
- 25% off merchandise, food & beverages (excluding alcohol) at the Zoo and Safari Park
- Free entry to the Museums in Balboa Park
- Free entry to Birch Aquarium at Scripps
- Free entry to Living Coast Discovery Center
- 15% off at Panama 66 in Balboa Park
- 10% off at the Prado in Balboa Park
- 15% off at Boot Barn
- 10% off at Boot World
- 10% off at Spanish Village Art Center
- Special discounts at Daniel's Coffee Cart
- Discounted tickets to Padres Games!







# WHAT WE OFFER

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## Education Courses:



### POPULATION MANAGEMENT

AZA and other accredited institutions use SSP programs to maintain healthy populations in managed care. Now, more than ever, institutions are relying on wildlife care staff to not only care for the wildlife at their institutions, but to care for the well being of the species as a whole, and ensure populations are maintained appropriately.



### WHAT YOU WILL DO

You will speak directly with an SSP Coordinator to learn how these programs are put into action at SDZWA. You will visit our famous Rhino Rescue Center, where one of these SSP programs are at work, and see our Frozen Zoo to learn how wildlife care combined with breaking edge science can help save species.

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# EDUCATION COURSES

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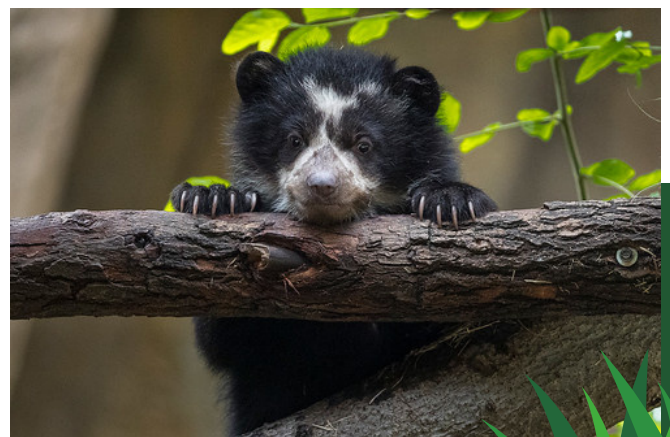
## WHAT YOU WILL DO

You will have the opportunity to speak directly with our Applied Wildlife Welfare Manager and will take a similar course that all SDZWA wildlife care staff take to improve our ability to help guests understand how we ensure our wildlife are thriving. You will learn how to rate wildlife's welfare on a continuum from good to poor and make changes based on your results.

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## WILDLIFE WELFARE

Using behavioral, medical, and environmental research, welfare can be measured on a continuum from good to poor. Every zoo and aquarium employee should be able to define wildlife welfare, understand the Five Opportunities to Thrive model and cite the differences between wildlife welfare and animal rights.







# EDUCATION COURSES

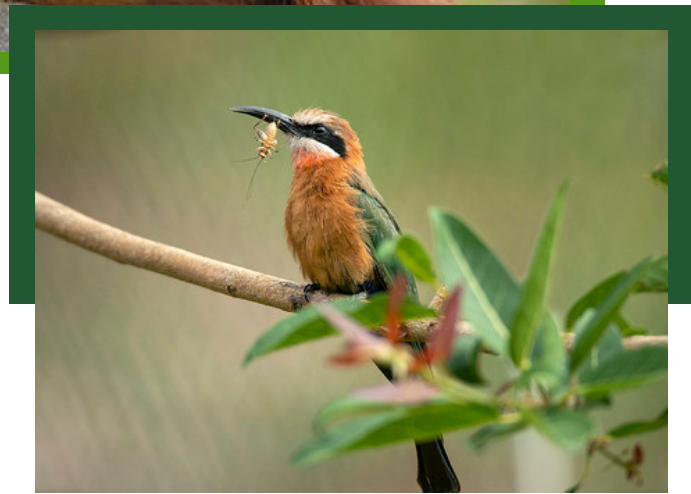
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## HORTICULTURE AND NUTRITION

Each species of wildlife has their own specific nutritional needs to keep them healthy and strong. Nutritionists are in charge of creating the menus for every individual on grounds and they adjust these menus based on the needs of the individual. Horticulture cares for thousands of plant species required to keep our wildlife happy and healthy. Many of these plant species are rare around the world.



## WHAT YOU WILL DO

You will speak directly with our Nutritionist Specialists, learning how they formulate and maintain wildlife diets. You will also have the opportunity to see where all of the food is stored and prepared, and will get a special tour of the kinds of plant wildlife we house on and off grounds. You will learn from experts in the field of horticulture and plant science and see our cutting edge research that allows us to maintain and restore plant populations.

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# EDUCATION COURSES



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## WILDLIFE BEHAVIOR

Historically, the idea of training only came to mind when thinking about wildlife that participated in shows and education settings. However, husbandry training is one of the most important aspects of a Wildlife Care Specialist's job. By allowing wildlife to participate in their own medical care, procedures are safer and more rewarding for the wildlife that participate. Wildlife Care Specialists can do regular health checks on individuals to ensure their health and well being. In addition, training programs stimulate the individual's mind allowing them to continue to learn and problem solve.

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

Receiving a similar course that all Wildlife Care Specialists at SDZWA receive, you will take the Wildlife Behavior class with the Curator of Behavioral Husbandry, Nicki Boyd. You will learn how to shape behavior through operant conditioning, and experience what it's like to work WITH wildlife to maintain their optimal care.







# EDUCATION COURSES

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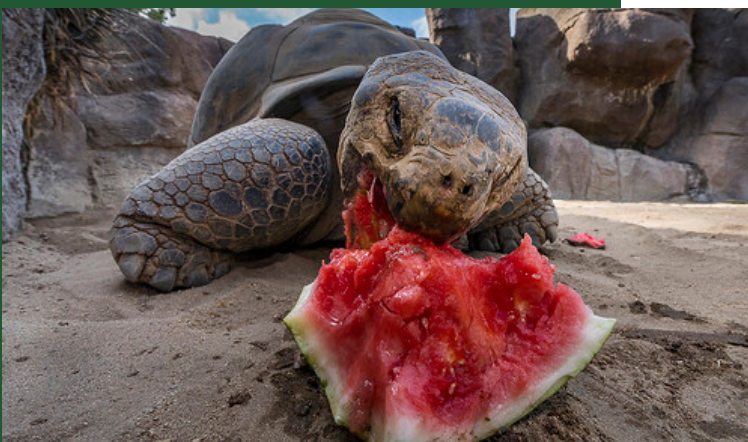
## INTERPRETATION TRAINING

One job that all employees that work for a zoological association share, is to help visitors have an enjoyable zoo experience, gain a greater understanding and appreciation of wildlife, and learn about the zoo and its purpose. This is done through proper interpretation. Your skills as an effective interpreter can create a crucial moment that increases a visitors conservation knowledge and desire to save wildlife.



## WHAT YOU WILL DO

Taught by one of our professional interpreters, you will learn the skills necessary to effectively communicate our Mission and Vision to zoo guests. Through these purposeful, meaningful, and relevant communication tools, you will gain the ability to broaden perspectives, inspire change, and deepen understanding of those around you.





# EXTRA OPPORTUNITIES



## San Diego Natural History Museum

Join us for an extra special behind the scenes private tour of our very own Balboa Park Natural History Museum.



## Sea World San Diego

You will spend a day at Sea World San Diego learning about their wildlife care routines, job opportunities, breeding, rescue and rehab.