Title: Learning Experiences Volunteer

Location: Werribee Open Range Zoo

Description: The Learning Experiences (LE) Volunteer supports the ‘Education for Conservation’ learning programs (Students ranging from Kinder through to Year 12) during the school term and/or the ‘Keeper for a Day’ careers based program during school holidays (Students ranging from Year 7 to Year 12) during school holidays.

About Zoos Victoria

Zoos Victoria operates world-class zoos on three sites: Melbourne Zoo, Healesville Sanctuary and Werribee Open Range Zoo. Our vision is to be the world’s leading zoo-based conservation organisation through our commitment to fighting extinction. Zoos Victoria provides innovative wildlife-based recreation and learning experiences that inspire and facilitate visitors to take conservation actions that make a measurable and positive difference.

Volunteers play a very important role in the life of Zoos Victoria. They contribute to the success of Zoos Victoria by furthering our reach and capacity in fighting extinction, adding value to a visitor’s day and complement, not replace, our paid workers.

Learning Experience

The Learning Experiences team is responsible for the development of outstanding learning experiences to general visitors and over 170,000 students. Experiences are created in line with Zoos Victoria’s vision and purpose and Department of Education and Training (DE&T) and Catholic Education Office Melbourne (CEOM) priorities. Experiences are provided in the areas of formal and informal programs, conferences, community programs and learning technologies.

The relevant programs for LE volunteers include:

- **Keeper for a Day**, which runs every school holidays with up to 22 children (Years 7 to 12) on selected dates.
- **Education for Conservation** school programs (Kinder- Year 10, as well as additional VCE programs), which run each week day for school students.

Depending on the program, participants engage in experiences that may include Educator facilitated workshops, focused Precinct activities, behind the scenes visits, Zoo Keeper presentations, up-close animal encounters, self-guided exploration of walking trails and a safari tour.

Key details of the volunteer role

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<th>What will you be doing?</th>
<th>Learning Experiences Volunteers will:</th>
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<td>assist in the preparation and delivery of high quality programs.</td>
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<td>assist Education Officers to lead participants through designated interpretive and educational activities</td>
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<td>assist the Education Officer in their supervision of the program’s participants</td>
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<td>help to prepare and facilitate learning program activities related to the daily program</td>
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- help set up and pack up of activities when required
- help maintain Zoo program resources and materials
- provide support to other volunteers in order to make each day run smoothly
- be part of a dedicated team of teachers, extinction fighters and animal lovers.

**Who are we looking for?**

People who are:
- able to:
  - communicate effectively
  - present to large groups and interact with individuals
  - engage young audiences using excellent interpretive skills
  - be a persuasive advocate in promoting Zoos Victoria’s vision and objectives
  - relate to and adjust information accordingly for visitors from a range of backgrounds and ages
- flexible and adaptable to a variety of situations
- proactive and creative
- team players
- interested in animals, wild places and conservation and sharing this interest with children of all ages
- reliable and communicative
- knowledgeable of the local area and the Zoo and/or open to learning
- aware of the philosophy and practice of environmental education or open to learning
- experienced in educating, delivering presentations or tours and/or open to learning.

**Commitment**

Learning Experiences Volunteers should commit to:
- a minimum of one day each school holidays for a period of at least one year. (9.00am – 4.00pm) OR
- a minimum of 5 days each School Term for a period of at least one year. (10.00am – 1.00pm)

**Benefits to you**

For training teachers this is an opportunity to be exposed to non-traditional education settings and Education for Sustainability philosophies and practices.

Volunteers will continue to:
- have an opportunity to be involved in a world-leading zoo-based conservation organisation
- be part of a team of friendly, like-minded people
- receive training and the opportunity to learn new skills, in particular interpretation skills and how learning theory is applied in a cultural environment, and to apply your learning in a meaningful way
- have an opportunity to get involved in other volunteer roles subject to interest and availability
- receive a range of benefits including discounts, invitations to special events, regular news updates and discounted Zoo Membership after 12 months volunteer service.
### Training

All volunteers must attend and complete training in the Zoos Victoria Core Modules:

- Module 1 - Zoos Victoria, Volunteering Role, Safe Work Practices
- Module 2 - Working in a Team, Positive Visitor Experiences

In addition, specialist training will be provided for the Learning Experiences Volunteer role. This includes:

- Education for Conservation Volunteer Training

Undertaking ongoing professional development, provided by Zoos Victoria, is an expectation of this role.

### Costs

Costs:

  Please note, after 12 months active volunteer service the membership is reduced significantly
- Working with Children Check (if you don’t already have one) – free for volunteers

### Location

Werribee Open Range Zoo

### Requirements

- Current Working with Children Check
- Zoos Victoria Full or Teacher Membership
- Compliance with the Code of Conduct
- Wear the uniform provided
- 18 years +
- Ability to stand and walk for long periods of time
- Demonstrated passion for wildlife and wild places
- Desirable but not compulsory; experience in a teaching role or enrolment in and/or completion of a Tertiary Education qualification or equivalent experience

### Selection Process

Prospective volunteers are encouraged to:

- review the information below on how to apply and follow the instructions on how to apply

Applications will be individually assessed and eligible volunteers will be invited to attend a brief group interview.

### Equity and accessibility

Adults of all ages, backgrounds, abilities and skills are encouraged to become Zoos Victoria volunteers.

There is no upper age limit as long as you continue to be fit, active, able and willing to learn and remember new information and adapt to change as the Zoo develops.

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**How do I apply for this volunteer opportunity?**

Compile a short expression of interest outlining:

- why volunteering for the Learning Experiences department appeals to you
- your previous experience and suitability with this role (including a C.V. if applicable)
- availability and contact information
Applications are only via the link on our website.

To find out more:
- contact the Learning Experiences Volunteer Coordinator on telephone 9731 9630 or email mhoward@zoo.org.au
- visit www.zoo.org.au/get-involved/volunteer-at-zoos-victoria