



Animal Encounters – Animal Keeper Internship

(16-24 hour/week; Temporary Position)

The Organization:

Lindsay Wildlife Experience, a natural history, environmental education, and wildlife rehabilitation center located in Walnut Creek, California, connects people with wildlife to inspire responsibility and respect for the world we share. We house a wildlife rehabilitation hospital, a collection of live, native California animals and changing art and natural history exhibits.

The Position:

This internship offers a unique opportunity to learn about husbandry for native animals in Lindsay's collection of non-releasable birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates. This position requires a self-motivated, flexible, and responsible individual capable of supporting the daily operations of the Animal Encounters Department.

This internship focuses on animal husbandry for the animal ambassadors at Lindsay. Interns will gain knowledge and experience of a variety of animal taxon through basic husbandry, enrichment, training, diets, exhibit design and maintenance, medical care, animal knowledge, and more. There may be some education aspects to this position in the form of interacting with the visiting public. The animal keeper interns report to the Animal Encounters Volunteer Manager, Lead Animal Keepers, and Animal Keepers on staff. This position does not include wildlife rehabilitation.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Participate in daily animal husbandry, including handling, enrichment, and record keeping
- Accurate observation, evaluation and documentation of animal behaviors
- Assist animal keepers in public programming using live animals
- Facility maintenance (cleaning, equipment upkeep, organizational projects)
- Work with a variety of animals within the guidelines of the department

Qualifications:

- All staff, volunteers, and interns must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination and up to date booster.
- Must be 18 or older to apply.
- College student or recent graduate in biology, zoology, or related field is preferred.
- Ability to work well with staff and volunteers.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively (verbally and in writing) with staff, volunteers and visitors.
- Must be in good physical condition – activities include lifting, bending, twisting, stooping, carrying, and extensive standing/walking.
- Ability to lift 20 pounds and move 50 pounds - must have a willingness to work with some physical risk while observing proper safety procedures.

- Tolerance of strong odors, dust, hay, animal fur/hair/dander.
- Ability to pass a background check from Lindsay Wildlife Experience.

Hours, Benefits, and Compensation:

Unpaid internship. Must complete a minimum 280 hours.
8 hour shifts, 2-3 days/week, including weekends

Positions Available:

Limited intern positions are available for each session. Start and end dates are flexible. Each session will last around 12 - 18 weeks, depending on the number of days worked per week. Selection is determined by application and interview.

Spring Session: January - May (**application deadline:** December 1st)

Summer Session: May – September (**application deadline:** April 1st)

Fall Session: September – January (**application deadline:** August 1st)

To Apply:

Please email to Erin Woods, Animal Encounters Volunteer Coordinator,
ewoods@lindsaywildlife.org to receive an Animal Keeper Internship application form.

In addition, send your cover letter (explaining goals and how this internship will help achieve those goals; relevant skills, activities, experience and/or classes) and your résumé to

Erin Woods
Animal Encounters Volunteer Coordinator
Lindsay Wildlife Experience
1931 First Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94597
ewoods@lindsaywildlife.org

Lindsay Wildlife Experience is accredited by the American Association of Museums. Lindsay Wildlife does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, marital status, gender, sexual orientation or physical condition.