



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 animal ambassadors in Lindsay's permanent care including but not limited to 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 are some public education aspects to this position in the form of interacting with the visiting guests.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Handle animal ambassadors in Lindsay's permanent care including but not limited to birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates
- Participate in daily animal husbandry by cleaning animal enclosures, providing enrichment, preparing diets and assisting keepers with animal training
- Record accurate observations, evaluations and documentation of animal behaviors
- Facility maintenance including raking, hosing, cleaning, equipment upkeep, organizational projects
- Provide program support with animal ambassadors for keeper lead programs
- Work with a variety of animals within the guidelines of the department
- Other duties as assigned
- The animal keeper interns report to the Animal Encounters Volunteer Coordinator and Animal Keepers on staff
- This position does not include wildlife rehabilitation

Qualifications:

- Must be 18 or older to apply
- College student or recent graduate in biology, zoology, or related field is preferred but not required
- Ability to work well with staff and volunteers
- Attention to detail and ability to follow departmental directions
- Patience with a wide range of abilities and personalities
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively (verbally and in writing) with staff, volunteers and visitors
- Strong time management skills

- Ability to read and interpret documents such as procedure manuals, google documents, online materials
- 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 the Animal Encounters Volunteer Coordinator, aevolunteercoordinator@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 the Animal Encounters Volunteer Coordinator, aevolunteercoordinator@lindsaywildlife.org

Equal Opportunity:

Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform essential functions.

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.

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