



Lincoln Park Zoo Internship Program

At Lincoln Park Zoo, we are committed to providing internship experiences that are knowledge and skill-based and provide real-world experience within their field. Our internships are competitive and offer exceptional opportunities to work alongside animal care staff, researchers and non-profit professionals.

In addition to gaining the specific skillset for a particular position, Lincoln Park Zoo's internship program also provides opportunities to learn about other areas of the zoo. Our career sessions expose interns to different jobs in various departments from entry level positions all the way up to senior management. Our resume/CV workshops allow interns to gain an inside perspective into what employers are seeking and what they can do to make their applications stand out. Our LPZooU courses and lectures provide opportunities to learn more about a variety of topics, from climate change to the overarching purpose of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Our social events are a great place to network with other staff and interns and to learn about the culture of the zoo. This combination of activities leaves interns with a well-rounded understanding of how zoo's and similar non-profits operate and the extent of opportunities available to them within the industry.

Requirements

As part of interning at Lincoln Park Zoo, all summer interns are required to attend at least 3 intern career and professional development opportunities during their internship. Full-time internships and internships with more flexibility may require more and will be determined by that position's supervisor. Fall and Spring Interns may participate in these and other workshops during the off-season on a more informal basis. Regardless of the time of year, interns are encouraged to attend as many activities as they wish. See the following table for a breakdown of the available professional development events.

Intern Welcome Party – Attendance strongly encouraged

This event officially kicks off the summer internship season, where interns from all participating departments have the chance to meet their fellow interns while learning more about Lincoln Park Zoo and the internship program followed by a zoo wide lunch meet and greet.

Activity	Description
Career Exploration—must attend at least one of the following	
LPZooU: Career Brown Bag Panels	Interns will hear from a panel of LPZoo entry and mid-level staff, many of whom work in Conservation & Science or Animal Care Departments and learn about their individual roles and responsibilities and the paths they took to their positions.
LPZooU: Coffee & Career Talks	Coffee and Career Talks provide the chance in a small-group environment for interns to get to know the zoo's senior management staff, hear their individual career path stories and advice they have as interns pursue their own careers.
Professional Development—must attend at least one of the following	
LPZooU: Resume/CV Workshops	LPZoo's Vice President of Human Resources and the zoo's hiring managers will discuss what they look for in candidates for employment during this intern-only LPZooU offering. Interns are invited to bring resumes and/or CVs to this workshop, as time will be set aside for critique.
Other LPZooU sessions	Subject matter experts are recruited from the zoo's staff to lead courses and lectures on varied topics in relation to the zoo sphere. Previous topics have included <i>Climate Change</i> , the role of LPZoo's Population Management Center, <i>Macaque 101</i> , and <i>A Day in the Life of a Keeper</i> . This zoo-wide professional development program is open to staff, interns, and volunteers.
Independent Action—must participate in at least one of the following	
Job Shadow	Interns are able to shadow Lincoln Park Zoo staff for additional opportunities to understand the day-to-day working environment and specific position responsibilities. Job shadows may last 1 – 2 hours, pending staff availability. Job shadows may be held individually or in small groups.
Informational Interviews	Interns have the opportunity to sit down with a Lincoln Park Zoo staff member to learn more about their career in a one-on-one setting. Interns are expected to research the career and prepare questions for the interview. Informational interview typically last 30 minutes.
Intern Presentations	Attend a presentation session for your fellow interns to support them and learn about their summer project. Participation will only be counted if you attend a presentation session you are not presenting at.

End of Internship

Final Presentation

All interns are required to do a short presentation for their department and fellow interns at the end of their internship which summarizes one or all of the projects they worked on during their internship. Details about this presentation are made available to interns in the weeks when they begin.

For more information about internships at Lincoln Park Zoo, visit www.lpzoo.org/internships.