

Henson Robinson Zoo's Junior Zookeepers For TEENS!

This 8 class course challenges teens, ages 13-17, with hands-on activities that allow them to learn about how Henson Robinson Zoo makes conservation, education, animal care, and animal enrichment our top priorities. Junior ZooKeeper participants will not only expand their knowledge about animals and conservation issues, but also acquire actual handling experience with some of our education use animals. Our activities will also help to develop students' collaborative work skills and oral communication skills.

Section Choices: You may choose either the Saturday Section or the Tuesday Section. Students enrolled in one Section are not allowed to attend classes in the other Section. Enrollment is limited to 10 students per Section.

Price Per Section: Pre-registration and pre-payment are required at least 24 hours before the start of class.

\$110.00 Springfield Park District Residents or Zoo Pass Holders

\$140.00 Non-Residents and Non-Members

Class Dates and Descriptions

Class 1 - Zoo Orientation and Introduction to Conservation Action

Saturday, June 1- 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. OR Tuesday, June 4 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

What are the goals of the modern zoo? Find out how zoos can play a key role in conservation as we take a behind the scenes tour of Henson Robinson Zoo. Work with your team to begin a conservation action plan for an animal species that needs our help to survive!

Class 2 - Zookeeping as a Career and Conservation Action Planning

Saturday, June 8 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. OR Tuesday, June 11- 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

What does a zookeeper do? Shadow our keepers to find out! Since you will be working on zookeeping projects, dress appropriately and bring WORK GLOVES. We will also work on developing our conservation action plans.

Class 3 - Reptile/Amphibian Handling Training & Conservation Education Using Animals

Saturday, June 15 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. OR Tuesday, June 18 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Find out how we take care of our reptiles and amphibians. Practice handling reptiles and amphibians and show these animals off to our zoo visitors! Learn how educational messages can change how people think about animals and make a difference in their conservation actions.

Class 4 - Bird Handling Training & Conservation Education Using Biofacts and Other Objects

Saturday, June 22 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. OR Tuesday, June 25- 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Meet one of our zoo's birds of prey and learn about the falconry equipment that's used for these birds. Observe how we perform routine beak and talon care procedures. Experience holding a bird of prey on your gauntlet. Also, find out how birds can be interpreted through the use of biological artifacts and other objects.

Class 5 - Mammal Handling Training & Enriching Exhibit Design

Saturday, June 29 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. OR Tuesday, July 2 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Get to know our "off exhibit" mammals that are used for classes and programs at the zoo. Observe our "on exhibit" mammals to evaluate the necessary components for their zoo habitats. Create a design for a mammal exhibit at the zoo that would enrich their lives.

Class 6 - Animal Health: Diets and Medical Care

Saturday, July 6 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. OR Tuesday, July 9 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Good vet care and a good diet help to keep our animals healthy. In this class, we will be making animal diets, delivering animal diets, and observing eating behaviors. Also, we are going to treat some "virtual animals" as "virtual vets."

Class 7 - Enriching Animal Behavior: Research and Training Techniques

Saturday, July 13 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. OR Tuesday, July 16 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Find out what you know about animal ethology by doing your own animal behavioral observations. We will also discover how knowledge of animal behaviors can help us train animals to perform new behaviors.

Class 8 - Enriching Animal Behavior: Observation, Analysis, and Enrichment Development

Saturday, July 20 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. OR Tuesday, July 23 - 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Find out how we stimulate new behaviors using environmental enrichment. We will be giving the animals interesting new objects and making observations about their reactions. We will also analyze the enrichment and work on creating ideas for future enrichment projects.