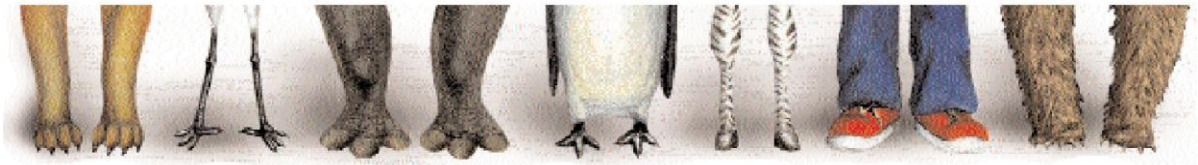


Walk on the Wild Side. Be a Zoo Volunteer.

Thank you for your interest in the Detroit Zoological Society's volunteer program. The Detroit Zoo and the Belle Isle Nature Zoo prosper from community support; in return, we hope you enjoy the opportunities and training we provide.

There are three steps to becoming a Detroit Zoological Society volunteer:

Attend **Volunteer Orientation, Part 1** (dates listed below).
Complete an **Interview** with Volunteer Services staff.
Attend **Volunteer Orientation, Part 2** (dates listed below).

Volunteer Orientation Part 1 is a general overview of our program focusing mainly on opportunities available at the Detroit Zoo. The agenda includes: welcome and introductions, a short film on the history of the Detroit Zoo, presentations by volunteers on opportunities at the Detroit Zoo and the opportunity to sign up for an interview. Light snacks are served.

An individual informal **interview** with a Volunteer Services staff member comes next, helping us place you in the volunteer opportunity of your choice. Paperwork such as a background check will be completed. A choice of appointment times will be offered during the week following Orientation Part 1 or as needed to fit your schedule.

Once you are sure of your interest in a Detroit Zoo option, the last step is **Volunteer Orientation Part 2.** This includes information on emergency preparedness, the Zoo's educational mission and volunteer policies and procedures. Light snacks are served. **Orientations must be attended in order.**

You may attend both orientations on the same day (when available) if you wish – bring a lunch if you'd like. **Part 2 is required before being eligible to volunteer in some cases** but is required of all volunteers within 3 months of your interview.

To reserve your seat at the Orientation to learn more about opportunities at the Detroit Zoo, please complete and return the enclosed Volunteer Profile Sheet, indicating which date you will attend. You may also call Volunteer Services at (248) 541-5717 ext. 3802 or 3806 or email volunteer@dzs.org to make a reservation. Since there is limited space available, we will advise confirmation when the Volunteer Profile Sheet is received.

Detroit Zoo Volunteer Orientations are held in the Zoo's Ford Education Center.

Orientation Part 1	Orientation Part 2
Saturday, March 5, 2016, 9-11:30 a.m.	Saturday, March 5, 2016, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 2, 2016 – 9-11:30 a.m.	Saturday, April 2, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 7, 2016, 9-11:30 a.m.	Saturday, May 7, 2016, 12:30-3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 6-8:30 p.m.	Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 6-8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept 28, 2016, 6-8:30 p.m.	Wednesday, October 5, 2016, 6-8:30 p.m.

See the map included in this packet for **directions to the Ford Education Center:** enter the Zoo through the Administration Gate (#4) located one-quarter mile west of the main Zoo entrance on the I-696 service drive. The security guard will give you further directions and volunteers will be on hand to direct you to the Ford Education Center.

Please note, the minimum age is 18 and volunteers do not feed or handle the animals.
Contact us for information on our summer "Volunteen" Program for students 15-17 years old.
We also offer volunteer opportunities for adults at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo.
See page 4 for further information.

Linda Denomme, Volunteer Services Manager
Melissa Pletcher, Assistant Manager

Detroit Zoological Society
8450 W. 10 Mile Road
Royal Oak, MI 48067

volunteer@dzs.org
Phone (248) 541-5717, ext. 3802
Fax (248) 542-4465

Run with the wildest crowd in town!
Volunteer at the Detroit Zoo!

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN ANIMALS, ENJOY PEOPLE AND HAVE A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION, WE HAVE A PLACE FOR ***YOU***!

FULL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PROGRAMS BELOW WILL BE GIVEN AT ORIENTATION PART 1.

The following opportunities are available year-round.

Australian Outback Adventure - Guests are able to walk among the kangaroos and wallabies on a pathway through the *inside* of their exhibit. Volunteers are on hand to answer questions and to facilitate the flow of visitors. Specialized training includes information about our kangaroos and wallabies, their lifestyle and native habitats.

Ford Education Center Volunteers - Our premier education facility offers the opportunity to help with a wide variety of activities. Greeters, way-finders, program assistants - the list grows and changes depending on the programming that is scheduled.

Gallery Guides - Work with Zoo staff to greet and educate visitors in the unique and award-winning Wildlife Interpretive Gallery. Assist visitors with information in the Butterfly Garden, the Art Gallery and Science On a Sphere. All Gallery Guides attend a three-hour training session taught by Zoo staff to get acquainted with the facility and its residents.

Docents - Share your knowledge and appreciation of animals with groups of adults and children. Participate in educational programming at the Detroit Zoo, including leading group tours. Docents also staff the Arctic Ring of Life, the National Amphibian Conservation Center and answer questions at animal habitats throughout the Zoo. Docents learn about the Zoo and its animal residents during in-depth training sessions taught by Zoo staff, usually scheduled in the fall.

SOS Assistants – Science On a Sphere (SOS) is an amazing spherical display system that projects dynamic simulations of the Earth, its atmosphere, oceans and land. It is located in the Wildlife Interpretive Gallery and was developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which also provides the environmental data that it displays. It is a great teaching tool to educate audiences. Volunteers at this location answer questions about how the Sphere works and assist with the flow of traffic through the exhibit.

Staff Aides - Assist a staff member by performing essential tasks such as answering the phone at the Call Center, filing, organizing, entering data and stuffing envelopes. The amount of time a Staff Aide volunteers is determined by his or her availability. All report to a specific person and schedule their time with that person. Some Staff Aides have regularly scheduled shifts and others are called as needed. Shifts are generally on weekdays during normal business hours.

Special Events Volunteers - Help with a variety of jobs during our special event activities throughout the year. Arts and crafts, reading stories or helping with games are typical activities. If you enjoy interacting with children and meeting new people, you can help us as a Special Events Volunteer. Special Events at the Detroit Zoo include *Bunnyville, GreenFest, MemberFest, Zoo Boo* and many more throughout the year.

Polk Penguin Conservation Center – ***New!*** Details available at Orientation.

The following opportunities are available April – October.

ARL Guest Assistant - The Arctic Ring of Life (ARL) is a must-see element of a Zoo visit. Volunteers in this area learn about the seal and polar bear residents in order to answer questions and to share their compelling rescue stories. On extra busy days, they organize the flow of visitors through the Polar Passage while bears and seals swim overhead. We recommend a visit to the ARL as a prerequisite to joining this volunteer group.

Zoo Ambassador - This is a job for a real "people person." Greeting and welcoming visitors as they enter the Zoo, helping them find the facilities and exhibits they are looking for, sharing the news of the day regarding special events and activities, all of these and more fall under the Zoo Ambassador job description. And, of course, as our diplomats of customer service, they do it all with a smile!

Gardening Assistants - Help the Landscape staff with special projects, weeding, planting and watering. Flexible schedules are available during the growing season as well as the rest of the year to maintain indoor plantings. No training is provided; gardening experience is required.

For all programs, the minimum age is 18. No prior experience is required.
We will provide you with the training you need.
Please note that volunteers do not feed or handle Zoo animals.

BELLE ISLE NATURE ZOO

DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Belle Isle is rightly known as a City of Detroit jewel. With 983 acres and over 5 miles of scenic shoreline drive, it is America's largest city-owned park. It holds a special place in the memory of many people who grew up swimming, horseback riding or canoeing during frequent visits to the island. We are pleased to offer an opportunity for people to give back to a place that has meant so much to them and to introduce it to those interested in supporting the City.

The **Belle Isle Nature Zoo (BINZ)** is operated by the Detroit Zoological Society. Its purpose is to bring the wilds of Michigan to the heart of Detroit and it works to achieve that goal by providing a variety of nature experiences for Detroit school children and families from Detroit and southeast Michigan. It also serves as a meeting place for local conservation-related organizations.

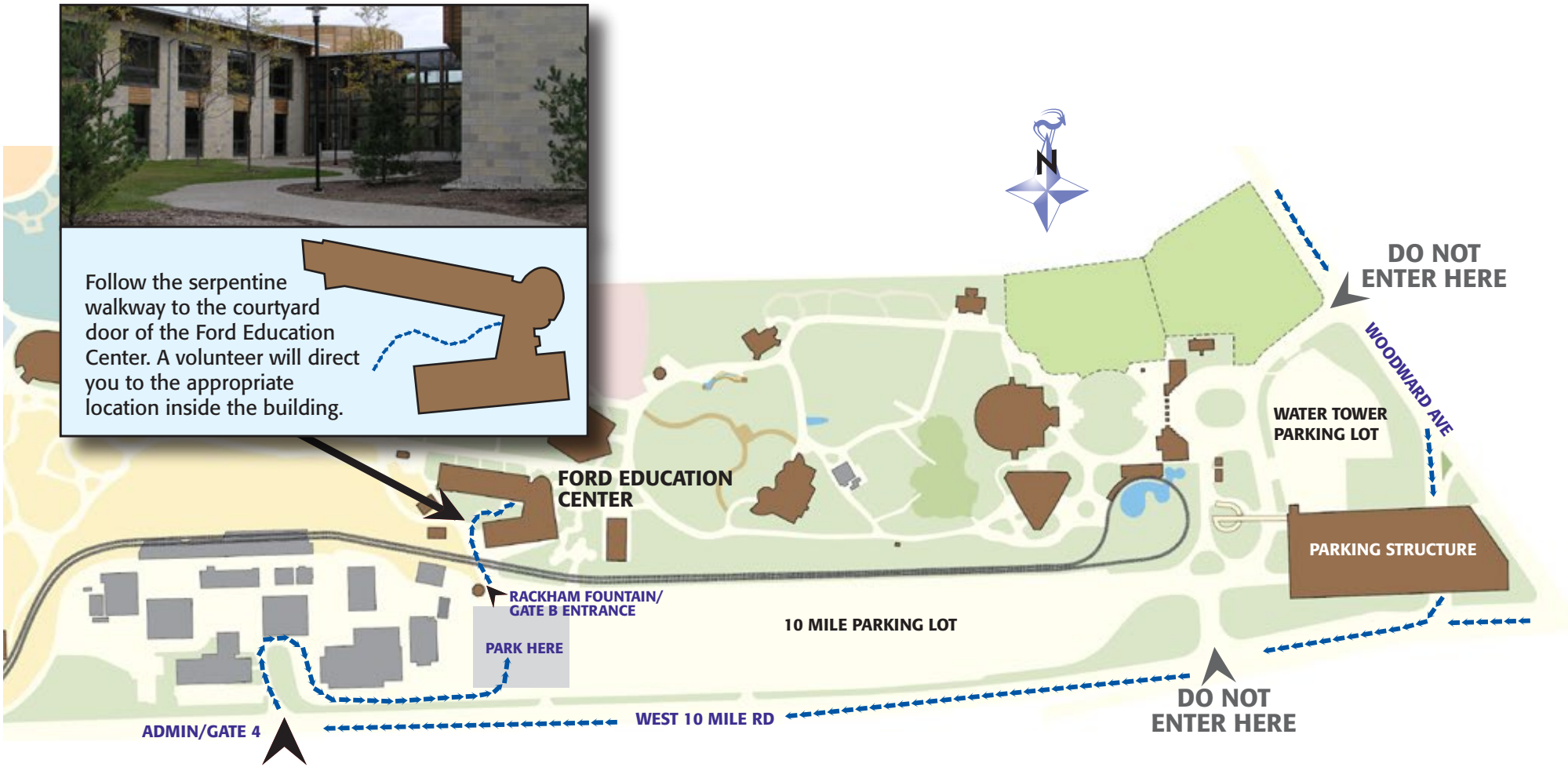
The building itself features Michigan reptiles, amphibians and fish as well as a very popular beehive exhibit along an indoor nature trail. Large windows look out to a collection of feeders frequented by a wide variety of native and migrating bird species. Feeding the deer was always a memorable part of a Belle Isle visit so the Nature Zoo offers a Deer Encounter with daily public feeding times. Fallow deer can be seen in a 1-acre habitat.

We are recruiting volunteers, age 18 and over, to help with two essential activities: **Special Events** and the **Deer Encounter**. Opportunities also exist for experienced gardeners willing to maintain sites around the building.

Special Events Volunteers fill a variety of needs according the event. Typical duties will include greeting visitors, handing out programs, helping children with crafts, assisting vendors and staff with set up and clean up. A regular shift is not required; the events come and go throughout the year and volunteers can sign up for those that match their availability. We ask for a minimum of 20 hours per year to stay on our roster. Occasionally a pre-event orientation may take place and will be announced as necessary.

Deer Encounter Volunteers are valuable assistants on weekends year-round and on a daily basis mid-June through Labor Day. This opportunity is for those with the time to contribute regular shifts to welcome visitors to the Nature Zoo. Help them enjoy the animals and the activities by answering questions and providing information and assist with the public feedings at the Deer Encounter. People who love to learn and then share their knowledge will find this particularly satisfying. Again, the minimum commitment is 20 hours annually but we are sure those who venture into this opportunity will be happy to provide much more support.

To learn more about opportunities at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo, complete and return the Volunteer Profile Sheet. Indicate your preference for volunteering at BINZ and we will contact you. Or call Volunteer Services at (248) 541-5717 ext. 3806 or email volunteer@dzs.org for more information.



ENTER HERE FOR
VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Enter through Administration/Gate 4 where security guard is stationed. Follow the roadway to the right to reach the 10 Mile Parking Lot.

Park in the west end of the 10 Mile Parking Lot, near the Rackham Fountain entrance/Gate B.

Proceed to the courtyard door of the Ford Education Center.

DETROIT ZOO®

DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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DETROIT ZOO • BELLE ISLE NATURE ZOO

Volunteer Profile Sheet

Volunteer Services, Detroit Zoo, 8450 W. 10 Mile Rd., Royal Oak, MI 48067 or volunteer@dzs.org

Name_____Home phone (____) _____
last first

Name on name badge_____

Cell phone (_____) _____email address _____

Address _____(City)_____(Zip)_____

How did you find out about our volunteer program? newspaper___ *Habitat*___ website___

Volunteer (name) _____ Other (please explain)_____

Are you a member of the Detroit Zoological Society? yes _____ no _____

Where do you want to volunteer? Detroit Zoo ____ Belle Isle Nature Zoo____(call for appointment)

Detroit Zoo Orientation Date: Part 1 _____ Part 2 _____(must be taken in order)

We will confirm the orientation date upon receiving your Profile Sheet. Space is limited; please cancel or reschedule if your plans change.

Emergency Information

Name _____ phone _____ relationship _____

Education

location years completed grad date major

high school _____

college _____

grad school _____

other _____

Employment

company name city/state your title dates

present _____

past _____

Volunteer Experience

organization name city/state work assignments dates

1. _____

2. _____

Can you perform the essential functions of the position for which you are applying with or without accommodation?

Yes _____ No _____

Explain if needed:

Have you ever been convicted of a crime? Yes_____ No_____

Do you have any felony charges pending? Yes_____ No _____
(If yes to either question, state when, where and the nature of the offense.)

Are you 18 years or older? ° YES ° NO If under 18, what is your current age? _____

Areas of Interest **(CIRCLE)**

Belle Isle Nature Zoo: Special Events Deer Encounter

Detroit Zoo: ARL Guest Assistant Australian Outback Docent FEC Assistant Gallery Guide

Gardening Science On a Sphere Assistant Staff Aide Special Events Zoo Ambassador

Polk Penguin Conservation Center

Special Skills circle as many as apply:

secretarial research arts crafts teaching telephone proofreading
carpentry graphics writing calligraphy painting computers mechanical filing
photography public speaking Other: _____

Fluency in Spanish, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese? (Indicate which language) _____

Time How many hours a week can you commit to volunteering? _____

For how long are you interested in volunteering? _____

Why do you want to be a Detroit Zoological Society volunteer?_____

_____

Commitment Statement I understand that if accepted as a volunteer:

- I offer my services with an understanding that there will be no monetary compensation.
- I will be prompt and regular in my service and will notify my supervisor if I must be absent.
- I will readily accept training and supervision.
- I will adhere to the Detroit Zoological Society's policies and procedures.
- I will notify my supervisor or volunteer coordinator if I am unable to complete my commitment or if I would like to transfer to another volunteer assignment.
- I will notify Volunteer Services when I leave the volunteer program.
- I certify that the information in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and I understand that falsifying any information may result in termination of my participation in the volunteer program.
- I give the Detroit Zoological Society the right to conduct criminal background checks.

Signature _____ **Date** _____