



Zooteen Classes 2023

Level 1

- Get to know the Zoo
 - Mission & Accreditation
 - Staff & Departments
 - Map orientation
- Zoo History
- MPZ policies & procedures
- Volunteering
 - Volunteer types & opportunities
 - Volunteer service levels & training
- Lay of the Land zoo tour & scavenger hunt
- Zooteens meet and greet

Independent Study

- Read – MPZBG Zooteen Handbook Level 1
- Login to Volgistics
- Take Level 1 Class Quiz - (online)

Level 2 (prerequisite Level 1)

- Conservation & Education
 - What does conservation look like ?
 - Conservation education messages
- Ecological Concepts
 - Ecological terms & definitions
 - Ecological concept use & messages
- Interpretation
 - What is interpretation?
 - MPZ interpretive resources
 - Effective interpretation know-how
 - Interpreting to your audience
- Intro to animal contact zoo tour
- Intro to biofacts
 - Biofacts inventory
 - How to use and display biofacts
 - Tour of biofact table presentations

Independent Study

- Read – MPZBG Zooteen Handbook Level 2
- Take Level 2 Class Quiz - (online)

Level 3 (prerequisite Level 2)

- Intro to Living Ambassadors
- Animal welfare / stress / zoonosis
- Animal handling policies & procedures
- Intro to Plants & Animals
- Tour: meet the MPZ ambassador animals

Independent Study

- Read – Level 3 Zooteen Handbook
- Read – Ambassador Animal Fact Sheets
- Take - Level 3 Class Quiz - (online)

Certification:

- Take 3 animal handling practice sessions – (with mentor)
- Take animal handling test – (with mentor)

Level 4 (prerequisite Level 3)

- Take 3 animal handling sessions – (with mentor)
- Take animal handling test – (with mentor)
- Take animal certification test – (online)

Camp Refresher

- Mandatory for all zooteens helping with summer camp
- Latest zoo updates & tips for a successful camp summer
- Held each spring



Training Schedule 2023	
Mar. 1	Application deadline
Mar.	Interviews & Registrations
Apr.	Level 1 Class
	Level 2 Class
May	Camp Refresher Class
Aug.	Level 3 Class
Nov.	Level 4 Class
Winter	Annual Level Recertifications





Volunteer Structure 2023

Mesker Park Zoo and Botanic Garden is committed to conservation of our wildlife and the environment we share. We seek engaging educational interactions with guests with the goal of enhancing their experience at the Zoo, and increasing their empathy and awareness about the environmental issues we all face. Volunteers have a significant role in that success.

Many people volunteer with their church, school, scout, work, or civic group to help with a special event or grounds project for a day, and no special training is required to do that. Others want to volunteer at the Zoo on a more regular basis, and should complete the training they need to serve in the roles they seek. There are a few types of volunteers at the Zoo...

Volunteers

There are many opportunities to volunteer at the Zoo, including special events, botanical projects, guest interaction, and educational programs for both the young and the young at heart. Our volunteer program is diverse and flexible to meet your needs. You can begin your volunteer path assisting with general projects and events on zoo grounds with minimal training, or advance to ambassador animal handling or educational programming with specialized training. One can begin for as little as 6 hours of training & 20 hours /yr.

Docents

Docents are adult volunteers that interact with guests to enhance their zoo experience. Docents have completed specialized training to provide educational interpretation of exhibits, bio facts, and animals throughout the zoo to teach about wildlife, environment, and conservation topics. Docents also conduct programs to schools, scout groups, summer campers, senior citizens, and civic organizations in our community. Docents must be at least 18 years old, a Zoo member, and complete training requirements for level desired.

Zooteens

High school students 14-18 years of age can become Zooteens. They help staff and Docents with projects, educational activities, summer camps, and events. Our Zooteen program offers opportunities to interact with animals, meet like-minded teens, and gain beneficial experiences to help them find their paths as young adults. **Zooteens can start in the spring of their freshman year**, and volunteer through the end of the summer of their senior year. Zooteens can begin for as little as 6 hours of training and 20 hours /year.

Zooteen today, your way!

See below for the tiered Zooteen program structure, and on the reverse side for the Zooteen class schedule. To find out more information, visit our website at www.meskerparkzoo.com.

		Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden ZooTeen Program				
		Level 1 - Volunteer	Level 2 - Interpreter	Level 3 - Ambassador	Level 4 - Ambassador	
Requirements	To Train	Class training & certification (hrs)	4	4	4	
		Animal handling certification (hrs)			6+	6+
		Complete pre-summer training each May (hrs)	2	2	2	2
	To Stay Active	Annual service requirement (hrs)	20	20	40	60
		Annual commitment to zoo camp (days)	6	6	6	6
		Annual minimum of interpretive activities**	6	6	10	10
		Annual animal handling recertification (2 required)☒			Yes	Yes
	To Advance Levels	Complete volunteer hours at current level (hrs)	10	10	20	N/A
		Complete minimum time volunteered (months)	2	2	4	N/A
Complete cumulative hours at the zoo (hrs training & volunteering) *		20*	80	120	N/A	
Privileges	Level 1 - Assist on zoo grounds with general projects, events, and Camp ZOOfari	▪	▪	▪	▪	
	Level 2 - Interpret exhibits, biofacts, animal contact yard, & educational activities		▪	▪	▪	
	Level 3 - Interpret/ handle beginner level ambassador animals			▪	▪	
	Level 4 - Interpret/ handle advanced level ambassador animals				▪	

* Cumulative hours - 20 hrs are a soft guideline to move onto Level 2; but 40 hrs is a requirement to move on to Level 3

** Interpretive activities are educational public interactions about an event, exhibit, biofact, animal, or environmental topic.