

CalTEACH Ambassador Animal Program Staff

Overview:

The CalTEACH Ambassador Animal Program staff will support the Animal Ambassador Program Manager by assisting and leading informal educational programs throughout the zoo. This temporary position for 2 CalTEACH students will develop foundational interpretation skills, culminating in an empirical research project. We are interested in applicants with a passion for interpretation, strong customer service abilities, interpersonal and computer literacy, and an interest in working directly with ambassador animals to further educational goals.

Throughout the session, staff will learn safe handling techniques for a variety of ambassador animals and will be provided thorough instruction on interpretation skills. The position's primary goal is to provide individuals with the foundational skills to present an engaging and safe learning experience to guests; staff spend most of the session learning these skills. The final stage of the position will incorporate safe animal handling techniques with the opportunity to learn how to handle a variety of ambassador animal species during informal and formal interactions with guests. Each CalTEACH student is required to do a project focused on one of the animals with which they work. They will do research to develop the proposed project, complete the project with the guidance of the Program Manager, and present their findings detailing the development and outcome of their project at the end of the session.

Shifts: 3x / wk for 8 wks - 1 weekend day required

Responsibilities include:

- Provide a safe, enjoyable, educational, and interactive experience for guests
- Assist with developing and providing educational and engaging programming for guests in varying age groups
- Work alongside full time Ambassador Animal Programs staff and temporary summer teen interns
- Develop and implement an empirical research project, utilizing an ambassador animal, aiming to further the mission of the Learning and Engagement Team - project will require data collection, analysis, and a short presentation to the department
- Learn safe handling techniques for beginner and intermediate tiers ambassador animals (individual choice between a selection of mammals, insects, or reptiles)

Requirements:

- Some undergraduate college work in wildlife management, conservation biology, education, or a related scientific discipline
- Enrolled in the CalTEACH program
- Able to work 20 hrs per week for 8 weeks, 10a-4p - 1 weekend day is required, but there is some flexibility during the week
- Previous experience with animal care and public education beneficial but not required
- Must have received the COVID-19 vaccination and at least 1 booster
- Must show proof of Negative TB test before starting