



Utah's HOGLE ZOO

Organization: Utah's Hogle Zoo (AZA Member)

Internship: Fall 2024 Conservation Internship

Location: Salt Lake City, Utah, United States

POSITION SUMMARY

Conservation Interns work with all staff members in the Conservation Department. Interns will help increase awareness among Zoo guests about the Zoo's conservation programs and impact, monitor wildlife in the Jordan River corridor using trail cameras, participate in Jordan River clean-up and restoration events, conduct research on rare amphibians within Utah's mountain ranges, participate in and support conservation events sponsored by the Zoo and/or its partners, and help with other activities as needed. Conservation is an interdisciplinary field, and this internship, based at Utah's Hogle Zoo, thus aims to expose interns to both the ecological and social aspects of conservation.

REPORTS TO: Director of Conservation

DATES: September 23 – December 13, 2024 (start and end date may be flexible based on school schedule)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this internship, interns should be able to:

- Explain how modern zoos support wildlife conservation and work to reduce threats to wildlife
- Describe the principles and benefits of community science and community engagement in conservation
- Identify and distinguish among amphibian taxa in montane wetland communities
- Safely handle wild amphibians following widely accepted standards and best practices
- Collect research data using standardized data forms
- Install and operate field cameras and acoustic monitors
- Demonstrate understanding of best practices for river restoration
- Download and analyze field-camera data and use the Wildlife Insights platform
- Demonstrate basic geospatial skills (e.g., use of handheld GPS for mapping and navigation)
- Design and conduct basic research projects in conservation
- Train and supervise community scientists and volunteers in field settings

REQUIREMENTS

- *Hours:* Complete 190–240 hours over a ~12-week period.
- *Final project:* Complete a final project. Subject to approval by the Conservation Department, interns may choose their own project topics, which should align with their interests and learning goals.
- *Journal:* Keep a weekly journal to be shared with their supervisors in the Conservation Department.
Presentation: Give a 10- to 15-minute PowerPoint presentation that summarizes the final

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Depending on Zoo priorities, Conservation Interns may:

- Investigate ways in which the Zoo can expand its community science programming
- Research opportunities for wild habitat development on Zoo grounds (e.g., building wetlands in a box, improving pollinator habitat, and maximizing tree nursery and garden space)
- Participate in public awareness events in matters regarding conservation and sustainability
- Monitor rare amphibians in mountain habitats using telemetry
- Along the Jordan River, plant trees, remove invasive species, remove trash, and check trail cameras
- Develop a curriculum for activities relating to Jordan River conservation and restoration
- Monitor bird window strikes on Zoo grounds, research and recommend deterrent methods, and develop a reporting form
- Work with the Zoo's Events Team to plan and conduct conservation-themed events
- Sort trail-camera photos and manage photo database
- Identify areas of Zoo operations that could more closely align with AZA sustainability guidelines
- Increase guest and staff awareness of the Zoo's conservation and sustainability programs and impact
- Contribute to community outreach by developing social media content
- Participate in off-site volunteering opportunities or tours

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must be:

- Currently enrolled in a relevant undergraduate program with junior or senior standing or a relevant graduate program, OR be a recent graduate of an undergraduate program
- In good academic standing (minimum 3.0 GPA)
- Able to provide proof of a negative TB test and pass a drug test and background check
- Able to stand/walk for at least 3 hours and safely lift 40 lbs.
- Eligible to work in the United States
- Willing to safely drive an AWD truck on uneven terrain and have a valid driver's license
- Initiative-taking and organized, with good time-management skills

WORK SCHEDULE

- Sept. 23–Dec. 13 (~12-week period)
- 16–20 hours a week, including some Saturdays, holidays, and evenings
- Utah's Hogle Zoo can be flexible regarding schedules (please discuss any known scheduling conflicts at the time of your interview)

COMPENSATION

This intern position is unpaid; however, interns may qualify for a scholarship award (see below). Professional development opportunities will be provided. College credit may be available for eligible students through their college/university. No housing is provided. Interns receive a 50% discount on food and beverage at the Zoo and a 30% discount in the gift shop.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

With support from The Beagle Foundation, the Zoo awards several scholarships each year. The *Diversity in Conservation Scholarship* provides a stipend for the duration of the internship (\$2,000–\$3,000, depending on the season). Applicants from groups historically underrepresented in science and conservation, as defined by The Beagle Conservation Scholarship (see below), are eligible for this award.

Eligibility: Individuals identifying as female, those assigned female at birth but who identify as non-binary or male, and all genders who belong to one or more of the following ethnic groups: African American, American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian, Asian, Latino, Hispanic, or Pacific Islander.

TO APPLY

Applications are due by **August 23, 2024**.

Please visit <https://www.hoglezoo.org/internship-opportunities/> to fill out an application. Attach a resume, cover letter, and informal transcript to application or send to volunteeroffice@hoglezoo.org. Incomplete application packets will not be considered. Only applicants invited for an interview will be contacted.

Please e-mail volunteeroffice@hoglezoo.org with any questions.

Utah's Hogle Zoo is committed to providing a diverse and inclusive internship program representative of a variety of backgrounds, age groups, perspectives, experiences, abilities, and strengths.