



VOLUNTEER POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Chimpanzee Behavior Research Volunteer at Indianapolis Zoo

Dates: May 19 – August 8

Description: Project Description: This is a joint Indianapolis Zoo/Indiana University project to learn about the new community of chimpanzees at Indianapolis Zoo. Volunteers will spend 8-12 hours a week observing and recording the behavior of chimpanzees in the exhibit space, paying attention to factors like where they spend their time, who they spend their time with, and what kinds of behaviors they exhibit in different contexts. The project will involve tracking their behaviors using a tablet or pen/paper, and also may involve filming the chimpanzees using a video camera and tripod.

Reports To: Research Director

Requirements:

- Supports the Zoo's mission of protecting nature and inspiring people to care for our world
- Completion of Volunteer Application, Orientation procedures, current negative TB Test, limited Criminal History Background Check and Child Protection Training
- Agreement to abide by the Zoo policies and regulations
- Ability to interact well in a team setting
- Ability to follow instructions and complete tasks independently to perform tasks properly and in a timely manner
- A strong interest in animals and a keen attention to detail
- Comfortable using technology, particularly tablets
- Ability to follow IT guidelines regarding computer and tablet usage
- Can commit 8-12 hours per week during the summer months (late May – early August)

Duties:

- Observe and record chimpanzee behaviors during three-hour shifts, completing three to four shifts a week (8-12 hours each week) from late May through early August.
- Shifts will involve video recording the chimpanzees or their enclosure spaces while also observing and coding their behavior.
- Typical shifts will involve being paired with another research volunteer and as a team you will alternate between filming and observing and recording behaviors using a tablet and ethogram.

Environmental Conditions:

Tasks can be in all weather conditions, in both indoor and outdoor environments. Could be standing for a long period of time. Volunteers should wear comfortable, weather-appropriate attire. Volunteers in this position are asked to wear plain clothes (not their volunteer uniform) in order to blend in with guests.

Training

Attend at least one training session prior to scheduling any shifts.

Evaluation:

Evaluation of performance will occur at regular intervals. Volunteers will have the opportunity to evaluate their experience. Records of service are maintained by the Office of Volunteer Services.

The Indianapolis Zoo reserves the right to rescind an offer at any time for any reason prior to the start date. The volunteer relationship may be amended by the Office of Volunteer Services at any time.

Volunteer Signature

Date

Interviewer Signature

Volunteer Printed Name
03/2024

Interviewer Printed Name



VOLUNTEER POSITION APPLICATION

Position Title: Chimpanzee Behavior Research Volunteer at Indianapolis Zoo

Printed Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Are you an IU student? ☐ YES ☐ NO (If yes, what is your graduation year? _____)

Why are you interested in joining the chimpanzee research project?

Please describe any experience you have studying or observing animals (this could be for a class, a hobby, a volunteer position, or another research project).

Do you have any experience that has helped prepare you to study chimpanzees specifically (e.g., courses, volunteer experience, hobbies, documentary viewing)?

Do you have any special skills or expertise you would like us to know about?

These positions will start in late May and continue until early August. What is your availability from May 19 – August 8, 2025?

I understand and agree that submitting this application form does not automatically register me as an Indianapolis Zoo volunteer.

Yes No

I attest that the information I have provided on this application form is true and accurate.

Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: Please email completed forms to Isa Walker, Indianapolis Zoo Research Assistant, at iwalker@indyzoo.com. Successful candidates will be contacted about the next steps for registering as a Volunteer at the Zoo and the process for starting as a Chimpanzee Behavioral Research Volunteer. Thank you for your interest in this program!