



# JOB SHADOW AT MILL MOUNTAIN ZOO

High school students interested in a career in zoo keeping or zoology are encouraged to submit an application for job shadowing at the Mill Mountain Zoo. Through this program they will gain a better understanding of this challenging but rewarding career.

Space for this program is limited and assignments will be made on a first come, first serve basis. A completed application and brief letter of interest are all that are required to get started in this program. Please read the information provided below to decide if Job shadowing at the Mill Mountain Zoo is right for you.

## **What will I do on a job shadow?**

No two days are alike at the zoo, so every job shadow is a unique experience. You will be assigned to a zookeeper who will take you along on their daily rounds as they clean and feed zoo animals. Depending on the type of animals they care for, you may be able to help prepare food, deliver food, and assist with cleaning. Job shadow students are not permitted to work with dangerous animals like snow leopards or red wolves.

## **What should I bring?**

Most importantly, bring your enthusiasm and love of learning. Zookeepers work outdoors in all types of weather, so please dress comfortably and appropriately for the weather. This includes close-toed shoes (sandals are not permitted), jeans or khakis, shirt, coat or jacket if necessary. Don't forget a hat and gloves if it's cold outside.

Also, be prepared to make the most of your job shadow by bringing a list of questions you'd like to ask the zookeeper.

## **Who can apply?**

Job shadows are open to high school students in grades 9-12. The shadow should have an up-to-date tetanus vaccination and must have a copy of written results of a negative intradermal tuberculosis (TB) test from within the last year, prior to the job shadow experience.

**When should I apply?**

Allow at least 4 weeks for the application and scheduling process. Be flexible. We may not be able to accommodate the exact date you request.

**Is there a fee?**

Job Shadows are offered free of charge as a service to students in our community.

**Choose from one of the areas listed below the following areas of the zoo:****Run A**

Join the keeper as they make their rounds through our amphibian, reptile, and education animal sections. Duties may include cleaning, feeding, and diet preparation for poison dart frogs, Burmese pythons, and a host of education animals.

**Days available: Saturday-Wednesday**

**Time: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

**Run B**

**This Job Shadow opportunity is only open to juniors or seniors in high school.**

Join the keeper as they make their rounds through our carnivore section. You may help with feeding, cleaning, and animal observations. Job shadows will not be permitted to work in areas with Snow leopards, bear, wolves, or lynx.

**Days available: Tuesday-Saturday**

**Time: 8:00 a.m.-5:00p.m.**

### Run C

Join the keeper as they may their rounds caring for the colorful collection of birds from around the world. You may help with cleaning, feeding, and animal observations. You may help with feeding, cleaning, and animal observations.

**Days available: Friday-Tuesday**

**Time: 8:00 a.m.-5:00p.m.**

### Run D

Help care for a variety of animals, from otters to porcupines when you shadow the Run D keeper. You may assist with cleaning, feeding, and animal observations.

**Days available: Sunday-Saturday**

**Time: 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.**

## How do I apply?

1. Choose the zoo area you'd like to perform your Job Shadow in from the list above. Read carefully and note days and times that the Job Shadows are offered.
2. Fill out the application below.
3. Mail your completed application and letter of interest at least four weeks in advance of your anticipated job shadow date to or email it to [Julia@mmzoo.org](mailto:Julia@mmzoo.org).

Job Shadows  
Mill Mountain Zoo  
P.O. Box 8159  
Roanoke, VA 24014

### Questions?

#### Contact:

Julia Franet-Hornbeck, General Curator  
540-343-3241 x6  
[Julia@mmzoo.org](mailto:Julia@mmzoo.org)



# JOB SHADOW APPLICATION

Students should allow at least four weeks for processing and scheduling of job shadows, so plan ahead. Please note that space is limited for this program and slots are filled on a first come, first served basis for those submitting completed applications.

Complete this application and send it to Job Shadows, Mill Mountain Zoo, P.O. Box 8159, Roanoke, VA 24014 ~OR~ email it to [Julia@mmzoo.org](mailto:Julia@mmzoo.org). If you are under 16, make sure to have your guardians fill out the consent form on the next page and send it with your application.

**Questions?** Call 540-343-3241 x6, or e-mail [Julia@mmzoo.org](mailto:Julia@mmzoo.org).

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home/Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

What is your grade level? ☐ Freshman ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior ☐ Senior

Are you fulfilling a school requirement through this job shadow? (Check appropriate box) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain your school's requirements

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Name of supervising teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In which zoo area would you like to perform your job shadow? (Please mark first and second choice)

☐ Run A ☐ Run B (junior or senior only) ☐ Run C ☐ Run D

List the days you will be available to complete your job shadow. (Please mark all that are applicable)

☐ Mon. ☐ Tues. ☐ Wed. ☐ Thur. ☐ Fri. ☐ Sat. ☐ Sun

List the time of day that you will be available and dates that you are available, required or would prefer to complete your job shadow.

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# JOB SHADOW GUARDIAN CONSENT FORM

(For students, under 16 years of age, participating in the Mill Mountain Zoo's intern/job shadow program)

\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to participate in  
(child's name)

in a \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
(internship/job shadow) (dates)

I know of no health or fitness restriction(s) that preclude his or her participation. In the event of illness or injury occurring to my child while involved in this activity, I consent to x-ray examination, anesthesia, and medical or surgical diagnostic procedures, or treatment that is considered necessary in the best judgment of the attending physician and performed by or under the supervision of a member of the medical staff of the hospital furnishing medical services. It is understood that in the event of a serious illness or injury, reasonable efforts to reach me will be attempted.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian) (date)

Phone numbers where I can be reached during the time of this activity:

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_