

# Docent Volunteer Description

## Overview

Docents play an integral part at the Lehigh Valley Zoo. Docents are specially trained volunteers who give educational talks, act as guides, assist in interactive exhibits, and are stationed throughout the zoo to provide information to guests about the zoo and its animal collection. A passion for educating others about animals, conservation, and our zoo is a must!

## Basic Duties

Educating and interacting with our guests by giving tours, exhibit hosting, running conservation stations, sharing biofacts, and assisting guests inside of the zoo. Volunteering as a Docent involves walking throughout the zoo grounds, standing for long periods of time, working indoors and outdoors in various types of weather conditions, and other physical tasks appropriate to the event or activity. This position involves a high degree of guest interaction and you must be comfortable speaking to small and large groups of people.

## Time Requirements

Minimum of one day per week requirement, especially during Spring/Summer season starting April through August

## Restrictions/Requirements

- Must be at least 16 years old
- A minimum commitment of one year of service equaling at least 70 hours is expected
- Complete application, interview, and background check process if 18 years or older
- Showing careful attention to detail, ability to follow directions, and being an excellent role model for other volunteers and guests

Docent positions are long-term positions that are limited in availability and may not be a good fit for all potential volunteers.

## Training

Must attend orientation and complete initial and ongoing training.

## **Uniform**

- Docent shirt and nametag

## **Supervisor**

Katie Lerch, Volunteer and Event Coordinator

Kayla Strawn, Guest Engagement Ambassador

Emily Manchester, Guest Engagement Ambassador