

Volunteer FAQs

How do I become a volunteer?

- The first step to becoming an Lehigh Valley Zoo volunteer is to complete an online application. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Those whose application is considered will receive an email from the volunteer office to setup an interview. Upon completion of the interview individuals invited into the volunteer services are required to complete paperwork as well as a PA criminal background check and child abuse clearance. All new volunteers attend a general orientation that includes a tour of the zoo and discussion of policies and protocols. Some positions require additional specialized training. Individuals can start signing up for shifts once these steps are complete!

How many hours are required to volunteer? What days and times are available?

- Each position has a different time requirement and level of commitment. Shifts vary depending on the needs of the zoo and staff and volunteer availability. Please refer to the position descriptions for more detailed information on service requirements and scheduling.

I have experience working with animals. As a volunteer, can I be trained to handle zoo animals?

- Volunteers, even those with experience, do not handle any of the zoo animals nor do they have access to exhibits. While some positions allow volunteers to work more closely alongside select animals, employees are ultimately in charge of the handling, cleanliness and welfare of all zoo animals. The Lehigh Valley Zoo does offer Animal Care and Education internships for college students wishing to gain experience in a professional zoo setting. Please review the "Internship" section of our webpage for more information.

Are there short-term volunteer positions?

- While our docent position is a long-term commitment we do offer short-term opportunities with our Crafts & Activities stations and Zoo Clean Team. Please refer to position descriptions for more detailed information.

Do you accept court ordered community service?

- This type of volunteer service is not intended for individuals who need to complete court-mandated community service.

Will I be guaranteed a volunteer position?

- There is a large demand for all of our programs and unfortunately we can not accommodate everyone who is interested. While we do not want to discourage interest in wildlife and conservation, we must have guidelines to keep our volunteer program manageable and successful.

Do I need a background check to volunteer?

- If you are 18 years or older you must provide a recent background check to be considered for our volunteer program. Background checks are provided free by the state to volunteers at: <http://epatch.state.pa.us>