



Dear Applicant and Parent/Guardian:

The Buffalo Zoo is pleased to offer our **Life Science Career Lab** program, an eight-week, career-based educational program for teens ages 14-18. This program provides in-depth, hands on experiences for those who have a serious interest in life science careers (e.g. biology, ecology, environmental science, conservation, veterinary science, etc.) but who may have limited opportunities to gain exposure to these careers. Workshops will focus on a different life science career each week. Participants will encounter career-related activities, talk with a professional in that field, and get hands-on experience with that career. Students who successfully complete the eight-week program will be awarded a \$250 gift card and have the opportunity to showcase final projects to friends, family, and the zoo community at a special event to be held at the Buffalo Zoo on February 27th, 2021. In addition, two participants will be offered a paid Buffalo Zoo internship at the end of the program to be completed in the Spring of 2021.

The application process is designed to help determine if this program is right for you. We will not be accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis. The **Life Science Career Lab** has very limited space available and we will only accept fifteen participants every year. The small group size ensures that all participants have ample opportunity for individual attention, mentorship, and one-on-one guidance.

To be eligible for program participation, you must:

- be between the ages of 14 and 18 by January 9th, 2021.
- live in Erie County.
- show a demonstrated interest in science.
- show negative results on a PPD Tuberculosis (TB) skin test.
- be available 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. every Saturday from January 9th through February 20th, 2021, and 9:00 A.M – 2:00 P.M. on February 27th, 2021.

Other factors for consideration will include:

- Identifying as a student from a gender or racial group that is underrepresented in Life Science professions.
- Coming from an economically or educationally disadvantaged background.
- Submitting a compelling application along with a strong letter of recommendation from a current or past guidance counselor or science teacher.

Applications will be accepted through **November 23rd, 2020**. We will notify applicants of their acceptance by **November 25th, 2020** by e-mail. Upon receipt of your confirmation letter, you will have one week to accept the opportunity. **It is important to note that PRIOR to the start of the program, the Buffalo Zoo must receive proof of negative results on a PPD Tuberculosis (TB) skin test.**



Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Will I be working with zoo animals during the program?

Yes and no. Although we incorporate a number of special opportunities, animal behavior observations, and hands-on experiences, please note that participants will not be feeding, petting, or training exhibit animals. They will, however, get the opportunity to work closely with the animal collection in our Education Department.

2. How can I work with other exhibit animals?

If working with animals is your goal, then the **Life Science Career Lab** program is a great step. This program will give you the primary experience needed to further explore your life sciences or animal-related career interests. Once you are in college, the opportunities expand even further. We do accept college interns who can assist zookeepers in various areas of the Zoo.

3. Why do I need to have a TB (tuberculosis) test?

Tuberculosis testing is required. As a standard procedure, all Zoo staff members, volunteers, interns, and other individuals who come in close contact with the animals are required to undergo annual testing for TB. Believe it or not some animals can contract TB from humans. Written proof of negative TB test results is required prior to the start of the program.

4. What precautions is the Zoo taking to protect against COVID-19?

All participants of the Life Science Career Lab will be required to wear a mask throughout the entire class. In addition, we will encourage social distancing of 6ft at all times. When participants arrive to the zoo, they will go through a health screening. Any student that displays symptoms and/or a fever will be asked to go home.

Application Check List:

Before submitting your application, please make sure you have all of the listed materials required

- Completed Buffalo Zoo Life Science Career Lab Program Application
- Letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor or science teacher

Only completed application forms with the above check list completed will be considered.

Please mail your completed application to:

Buffalo Zoo Life Science Career Lab
300 Parkside Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214

Or fax it to 716-995-6125

Or email it to lthibault@buffalozoo.org

Thank you for your interest in the Life Science Career Lab. We look forward to hearing from you!



2021 Life Science Career Lab Program Application

Application must be received by November 23rd, 2020 to be considered for the program.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone () _____ Cell () _____

Email _____

Date of Birth (applicants must be at least 14 yrs old by January 9th, 2021) _____

Parent/Guardian name(s) _____

Parent/Guardian daytime phone () _____

The following 3 questions are optional:

What do you identify as? Male Female _____ (fill in the blank)

What are your preferred pronouns? _____

Race:

- White Black/African American American Indian/Alaskan Native
 Asian Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander Hispanic/Latin
 Other: _____

We want to know more about YOU!

What are your qualities? Please rate yourself on each of the following characteristics (5 means it really describes you, 1 means it does not describe you at all).

I am willing to try new things 5 4 3 2 1

I want to work in the life sciences as a career 5 4 3 2 1

I have experience around animals 5 4 3 2 1

I am not afraid to get dirty 5 4 3 2 1

I enjoy teaching and sharing information with other children and adults. 5 4 3 2 1

Please list any clubs or organizations to which you belong (include school and non-school involvement). _____

List any careers you are interested in learning more about.

