



November 12, 2021

Dear Principal, Teachers and Guidance Counselors,

The Good Zoo at Oglebay is currently accepting applications for the **2022 TEEN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**. We are hopeful that you recognize the educational and social benefits of this program for your students and will assist them in applying.

Throughout the year our dedicated volunteers support education programs like summer camps, birthday parties, and sleepovers, by working alongside zoo education staff. Teens get hands on experience in animal care by assisting our zookeepers and helping at special events like the Easter Treasure Hunt and Boo at the Zoo. Educational interpretation using live animals and artifacts allows teens to gain experience public speaking and to engage with the community and their peers in an exciting new environment.

Teen volunteers must be currently enrolled in the 7th – 12th grade.

The deadline for applications is January 10, 2022.

Many of you are familiar with our application and training procedures. Due to COVID-19 safety policies we have altered some aspects of the program. Here are a few things that have changed:

- **Applications are being submitted on-line.** The link to the application can be found on our website at <https://oglebay.com/good-zoo/volunteer/> Application deadline is **January 10, 2022**.
- **Recommendation forms will be submitted on-line.** In the past we asked teachers to complete and submit written recommendation forms for their students. To make things easier for students and teachers, we are providing an on-line form. The on-line recommendation form can be found on this link <https://forms.gle/8zGGyXf45owtxBhLA>
- Teachers may submit recommendations for students they know are applying. We will also send an e-mail to teachers when a student lists them as a reference. Recommendation forms can be completed any time prior to January 18, 2022.
- **Interviews and MOST training classes will be done virtually** using Zoom and Google Classroom.

There is a non-refundable \$55 participation fee for students accepted into the Volunteer Program. This fee covers the cost of training materials, name tag, zoo volunteer T-shirt, and access to the volunteer website/scheduling system. Scholarships covering this cost are available for students in need of financial assistance.

Questions can be directed to Vickie Markey-Tekely at 304-243-4100 or vmarkey@oglebay.com

We appreciate your time and effort in making your students aware of our program.

Sincerely,

Vickie

Vickie Markey-Tekely
Oglebay Zoo Volunteer Program

PS – Please feel free to share the enclosed document with interested students! THANK YOU!

Volunteer at the WILDEST place in town! Oglebay Good Zoo

What does a teen volunteer do?

Teen volunteers assist Zoo Keepers and Educators with the daily responsibilities of operating the zoo. Our volunteers will share their wildlife knowledge with visitors at the zoo, and may use live animals and artifacts. In addition to everyday duties, volunteers also aid in conducting summer camps, birthday parties, special events and more.

Who can be a volunteer?

Teen volunteers must be currently enrolled in the 7th – 12th grade. The zoo's Adult Volunteer Program is available to those 18 years of age and older.

How do I become a volunteer?

- ✓ Fill out an on-line application form www.oglebay.com/good-zoo/volunteer
- ✓ Provide the names and e-mail addresses for TWO (2) references. These should be teachers, scout leaders or other adults who are not relatives. (Teachers are preferred.)
- ✓ Be interviewed by a zoo team member
- ✓ If accepted into the volunteer training program, submit a \$55 participation fee, which helps cover training materials, a uniform t-shirt, volunteer newsletter, website access and more. (Scholarships are available for those in financial need.)
- ✓ Attend training classes during February, March and April. Most classes will be virtual through Zoom with some in-person training.
- ✓ Prove knowledge of training class materials.

How often can I volunteer?

After successfully completing the Volunteer Training Program, Teen Volunteer set their own schedule by selecting times from an on-line calendar of opportunities. Teen Volunteers are required to assist the zoo a minimum of the following hours: January through April – 16 hours, May – 8 hours, June – 24 hours, July – 24 hours, August 16 hours and September through December – 16 hours (including two nights of Boo at the Zoo).

What has changed due to COVID?

The safety of our volunteers, team members, guests and animals are a top priority. The zoo is taking many measures to keep everyone healthy. Training classes will be held primarily on-line.

Questions?

If you have questions, feel free to e-mail docents@oglebay.com or call the volunteer office at 304-243-4033 or main zoo office at 304-243-4100.