

Volunteer at the WILDEST place in town! Oglebay Good Zoo



What does a teen volunteer do?

Teen volunteers share their wildlife knowledge with visitors at the zoo. Our volunteers also help Keepers and Educators with the daily responsibilities. In addition to everyday duties, volunteers help with summer camps, birthday parties, special events - especially Boo at the Zoo - 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
- ✓ Applications are accepted August through the first week of January. Those accepted to the program in August and September can start volunteering at Boo at the Zoo!
- ✓ 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 January through March. Most classes will be virtual through Zoom and Google Classroom with some in-person training.
- ✓ Prove knowledge of training class materials.

When do I volunteer?

After successfully completing the Volunteer Training Program, Teen Volunteer set their own scheduled 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 through September- 18 hours; October 8 hours*; November through December – 6 hours.

***Two shifts for Boo at the Zoo are required.**

Questions?

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

Scan the QR Code for more information and the online application.



Teens accepted to the program in September,
will be able to volunteer for *Boo at the Zoo!*



August 26, 2024

Dear Principal, Teachers and Guidance Counselors,

The Good Zoo at Oglebay is currently accepting applications for the **2025 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 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.

Teens who apply and are accepted into the program during August & September are eligible to volunteer for *BOO AT THE ZOO*, which is held every Friday, Saturday & Sunday in October.

These teens, along with all others accepted into the program, will complete training in January, February & March.

The deadline for applications is January 8, 2025.

- **Applications are being submitted on-line.** The link to the application can be found on our website at <https://oglebay.com/good-zoo/zoo-volunteers/>
- **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/t7sNKnHr6N13y7GK6>
- 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 12, 2025.
- **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 ymarkey@oglebay.com

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

Sincerely,
Vickie Markey-Tekely

Please feel free to share the attached document with interested students! THANK YOU!