

Zoo Animal Technology Graduate Internship at White Oak

White Oak conserves and sustains some of the earth's rarest wild animals through innovative training, research, education, breeding and field programs that contribute to the survival of wildlife in nature. The conservation programs span 700 acres along the St. Marys River in northeast Florida, surrounded by 12,400 acres of mixed forest and wetlands that make up the beautiful White Oak property. Founded in 1982, White Oak leads professional efforts to improve veterinary care, develop holistic animal management techniques, and better understand the biology of critically endangered species by providing excellent care and managing conservation programs for over 30 species of imperiled wildlife in large, naturalistic enclosures.



White Oak is dedicated to providing professional training opportunities in the diverse disciplines employed in our conservation programs. In August 1997, an animal keeper internship was established for outstanding Santa Fe College (SF) Zoo Animal Technology (ZAT) graduates. White Oak utilizes expert staff and infrastructure to give students introductions to, and hands-on experience with, captive conservation breeding programs linked to international efforts. The Santa Fe graduate internship is a historically successful program with excellent placement of graduates in professional zoo keeping positions at respected AZA institutions. The internship, rewarding in many ways, also includes a stipend for the duration of the program and free housing.

Skills and Experiences (hands-on and discussion/observation):

- Basic husbandry- feeding, shifting, and observation in large enclosures with large social groups
- Restraint techniques- Chemical immobilization, hydraulic chute and manual handling
- Challenges and methods of group care
- Breeding introductions and management
- Pre-parturition and neonatal management (including hand-rearing)
- Transport (in-house and external)
- Veterinary care
- Sorting/herding in large enclosures
- Daily reporting
- Diet preparation
- Avian egg management
- Field conservation programs
- Sample collection
- Cheetah lure coursing
- Guest interactions and education
- Enclosure landscaping and maintenance
- Research and scientific management basics



White Oak Conservation Holdings LLC

581705 White Oak Road Yulee, Florida 32097 Phone: 904 225 3396 Email: training@white-oak.org

www.whiteoakwildlife.org

Application Information:

Up to two students from the graduating ZAT class may be selected to work at White Oak (WO) for approximately eight months. The internship is designed to give graduates additional work experience with new and unique species. The selected candidate will be required to work in all animal areas including carnivores, birds, and ungulates. Commitment to the selected schedule and individual work duties will be required.

The selected candidate will receive free housing at White Oak for the duration of the internship. Housing for family or pets is not available, and guests are only allowed with prior approval. A stipend will be paid to the selected candidate. Interns will be scheduled to work 40 hours a week including weekends and holidays, and interns may be asked to help with after-hours duties such as neonate bottle feedings. There will be no guarantee of employment at the end of the internship and in order to avoid conflicts, the selected candidate will not be eligible for job openings at White Oak that occur during the internship. White Oak respects and understands the necessity for candidates to job search during the internship, but interns are expected to complete the eight month program before beginning employment elsewhere.

For the Summer/Fall 2018 internship period, all application materials must be received between **January 1st and January 14th**. The internship period begins after ZAT graduation and will conclude when the next ZAT class graduates. White Oak will review all applications and select candidates for in-person interviews. Please see instructions on how to apply below.

Eligibility Requirements

- Candidates must graduate from the SFC Zoo Animal Technology Program before beginning the internship.
- Candidates should be self-motivated, able to work well alone and with others, and willing to learn new skills and make the most of the internship experience.
- Candidates must be able to lift 50 lbs. without difficulty, work in adverse weather conditions, and remain on their feet for long periods of time.
- Commitment to a 40 hour work week, the selected schedule and individual work duties is required.
- Candidates must have proof of a valid driver's license and health insurance.
- Candidates must pass a drug test upon the start of the internship.
- Candidates must have a reliable motor vehicle for transportation.

How to Apply

Submit ONE DOCUMENT as an email attachment to training@white-oak.org with the subject line 'Santa Fe Internship Application'. Included in this file should be a resume/CV and cover letter, detailing why you would like to participate in this internship and how it will help you reach your career goals. Only electronic submissions will be considered (.doc, .docx, and .pdf format only).



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