

CONSERVATION HUSBANDRY INTERNSHIP

White Oak conserves and sustains some of the earth's rarest species through sustainable conservation breeding, education, and responsible land stewardship. The conservation programs span 700 acres along the St. Marys River in northeast Florida, surrounded by 17,000 acres of mixed forest and wetlands that make up the beautiful White Oak property. White Oak's animal programs are widely recognized for their natural environments and large spaces, species appropriate social structures and regularly reproducing populations. The low intensity management style results in animals that exhibit natural behaviors and resiliency, making them prime candidates for recovery and release programs.

The *Conservation Husbandry Internship* provides participants hands on management experience with large conservation populations. The internship offers direct experience working alongside staff in all aspects of animal care. There are four internships to choose from. Interns will be scheduled exclusively with the animal care team assigned to each internship.

Avian Internship: Selected interns will work within the avian team caring for species such as cassowary, grasshopper sparrows and a variety of crane and curassow species. The avian team is actively involved in three regional reintroduction programs, with a strong in-situ/ex-situ interface. Candidates should have a keen interest in avian ecology, diverse management methods, and direct conservation impact. *Onsite housing available for Spring & Summer Sessions. Housing is NOT available in the Fall Session.*



Carnivore Internship: Selected interns will work within the carnivore team caring for species such as cheetah, maned wolf, and Florida panthers. The carnivore team manages one of the largest and most successful cheetah breeding programs in North America and is the only facility to rehabilitate and release Florida panthers back to the wild, in partnership with state agencies. Candidates should have an interest in carnivore husbandry, breeding and zoological management with focus on individual animal behavior. *Onsite housing available for Spring & Fall Sessions. Housing is NOT available in the Summer Session.*

Elephant Internship: Selected interns will work within the elephant team caring for one of the largest populations of Asian elephants in the Western hemisphere. Candidates should have a keen interest in elephant husbandry, unique habitat and management styles, with a focus on herd dynamics and individual animal behavior. *Onsite housing available for Summer & Fall Sessions. Housing is NOT available in the Spring Session.*

Rhino and Ungulate Internship: Selected interns will work in either one or both of our ungulate teams caring for species such as white, black, and greater one-horned rhinoceros, giraffe, okapi, exotic equine and a variety of antelope and gazelle species. White Oak's ungulate teams manage some of the largest populations of these imperiled species. Candidates should have an interest in ungulate herd management and breeding populations. *Onsite housing is NOT available, selected applicants must have housing locally and transportation.*

Skills, Experiences, and Duties:

Each internship is different. Interns will have a detailed list of learning objectives which may include:

- Animal husbandry – general feeding and cleaning
- Animal behavior and observation, including social dynamics, reproduction, and parental care
- Handling, restraint, and operant conditioning methods
- Diet preparation and medication
- Egg management and artificial incubation
- Natural and assisted reproduction techniques
- Reintroduction strategies and conservation efforts
- Sample collection
- Enclosure maintenance
- Intra-facility transportation
- Observation of veterinary care and necropsies
- Through additional volunteer hours, interns may also gain experience with the other wildlife teams, conservation research, veterinary care, and program management (as available).



Internship Specifics:

Wildlife Internship Sessions				
Session	Apply	Review	Start Date*	End Date*
Spring	September	October	Mid-January	Early May
Summer	February	March	Mid-May	Early September
Fall	May	June	Mid-September	Early January

*Dates for the internship sessions are tentative, and may be altered

**Onsite housing is only available for designated sessions

Free on-site housing is only available at designated times of year for each internship focus area. Please apply to the appropriate area or session if you require housing. We highly encourage applicants that live locally to apply for commuter internship spaces as they have a smaller applicant pool. Interns that receive housing will share an apartment with another intern of the same gender and be required to help with after-hours duties.

The *Conservation Husbandry Internship* is a 40 hour a week, paid internship. The selected candidate will receive a \$1,466 monthly stipend, before taxes. The work schedule will include weekends and holidays, and occasional after-hours. White Oak provides transportation to and from the Jacksonville airport (for initial pick-up and final drop-off only). Interns have access to select White Oak amenities including a fitness center and swimming pool. Housing for pets and/or spouses is not available. White Oak reserves the right to terminate internships at any time. There will be no guarantee of employment at the end of the internship. To avoid conflicts, the selected candidate will not be eligible for job openings at White Oak that occur during the internship.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Candidates must have previous experience working with animals, domestic or exotic.
- Candidates should be currently enrolled, or recently graduated (less than 2 years) from high school, college or university.
- 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 at least 18 years, have proof of a valid driver's license and health insurance, and pass a drug test upon the start of the internship.
- Commitment to a 40-hour work week, the selected schedule and individual work duties is required.
- 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.
- Candidates must be legally able to work in the United States (US Citizen, Permanent Resident, or hold an Employment Authorization Document)

How to Apply:

To apply, please fill out the electronic application that coincides with your area of interest (you are welcome apply for more than one focus area):

[Avian Conservation Husbandry Internship Application](#)

[Carnivore Conservation Husbandry Internship Application](#)

[Elephant Conservation Husbandry Internship Application](#)

[Rhino & Ungulate Conservation Husbandry Internship Application](#)

Please apply within the application periods designated. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. Please send any questions to training@white-oak.org with the subject line: Conservation Husbandry Internship Application.

