

Wildlife Husbandry Internships

2023 Fall Term

Study animal behavior, provide daily care, learn applied conservation skills and support herd management in large habitats that keep wildlife *wild*. Interns learn by working full-time schedules side-by-side with staff in one of North America's largest conservation centers.

Interns receive a monthly stipend (\$1,760 before taxes)
Fall Term: August 23rd - early January 2024

Commuter & On-Site (Housed) Internships Available!



Under supervision of skilled staff, interns can learn a variety of skills including:

- Animal husbandry skills including cleaning, feeding, diet prep, diet stocking and organization
- Knowledge of different animal behaviors, including identifying vocalizations, body language/postures, reproductive behaviors, and social dynamics
- Safe animal capture, hand restraint, and transportation (Within the facilities of White Oak)
- Habitat maintenance including landscaping and fabrication
- Basic research skills in observation training, sample collection, note taking and reporting
- Medicating and tracking health outcomes of animals in collaboration with our veterinary team
- Observation of advanced veterinary care practices, procedures and necropsy
- Cross training on days off, or as opportunities arise

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must meet all requirements and submit all required materials.

- Hold a valid driver's license and health insurance
- Able to pass a drug test upon starting
- Legally able to work in the United States (US Citizen, Permanent Resident, or hold an Employment Authorization Document)
- Able to work well independently and in a team environment
- Able to work evenings, weekends and holidays
- Previous professional experience working with animals, domestic or exotic (internships or volunteer work counts!)
- Experience working outside in high heat and humidity
- Strong attention to detail and data management skills
- High drive to learn, take on challenges, and stay motivated
- Highly adaptable to changing environments, priorities, or animal care needs
- Able to lift 50 lbs. repetitively, and remain standing, walking or crouched over for long periods of time
- Able to work 40 hours per week for the duration of the internship

Commuter Internships

Rhino & Ungulate Teams

Ossicones, antlers and horns, oh my! White Oak's Rhino & Ungulate Teams care for a rainbow of species including white, black, and greater one-horned rhinos, giraffe, okapi, exotic equids and a variety of antelope and gazelle species. Interns learn animal care hands-on from day one, working with some of the largest populations of these imperiled species.

Specialized skills in herd management, manual restraint, neonate care, animal introductions and animal body language are available to high-achieving interns in the program.

Avian Team

Wild about winged things? White Oak's bird team provides interns amazing experiences working with a variety of species including cassowary, curassow, multiple crane species, and grasshopper sparrows. Interns help with catch-ups, breeding programs, reintroduction work and more.

Specialized skills in conservation, reintroduction programs, artificial incubation, research, controlled burn procedures and insect management are available to high-achieving interns in the program.



.....▶ **Commuter Interns Apply Here!** ◀.....

On-Site (Housing Provided) Internships

Carnivore Team

Spots or stripes? Pick both! White Oak's Carnivore Team cares for carnivore species such as Florida panthers and tigers, and manages one of the largest and most successful cheetah breeding programs in North America. Interns learn a variety of skills in carnivore care and behaviors.

Specialized skills in animal identification, carnivore diet prep, breeding behaviors, shifting techniques, real-time problem solving and behavioral conditioning are available to high-achieving interns in the program.

Elephant Team

Do you feel at home with the herd? White Oak's elephant team proudly cares for one of the largest populations of Asian elephants in the Western hemisphere. Interns should have a clear or growing interest in elephant husbandry and operant conditioning.

Specialized skills in animal management, observing operant conditioning training sessions and bathing elephants, learning social dynamics and novel elephant behavior are available to high-achieving interns in the program.



.....▶ **On-Site Interns Apply Here!** ◀.....



Why Intern with White Oak?

White Oak is a working conservation facility with over 17,000 acres of land focused on species recovery, education, and land restoration. Nestled along the St. Mary's River in mixed wetland and forest habitats, White Oak experiences mild winters, and humid summers, with lots of thunderstorms.

White Oak is a certified member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), and a founding member of Conservation Centers for Species Survival. White Oak maintains and develops highly successful assurance populations of vulnerable wildlife *ex situ* through innovative care, research, and driven, passionate staff.

White Oak has an impressive track record of rehabilitation and species reintroduction programs, including work with Florida grasshopper sparrows, Florida panthers, and Mississippi sandhill cranes. Our veterinary team also strives to provide world class care, with a robust staff of specialized veterinarians, technicians, and graduate students.

We are proud to have a high graduation rate of interns moving into full-time roles with conservation organizations through this internship program. Many alumni are now full-time zookeepers, biologists and grad students.

Living at White Oak

On-Site Interns receive free housing during the internship. Housing is not available for any spouses/partners/dependents or pets. Housing includes basic furniture, linens, towels and kitchen supplies including cookware, flatware, and dishes. Interns may be assigned a roommate and chores.



Questions? We are here to help!

Email us at Training@white-oak.org for assistance.