



# Barnyard Volunteer Application

**Thank you for your interest in the Lake Superior Zoo volunteer program!**

The Lake Superior Zoo is a conservation education facility whose mission is to provide close-up animal experiences which inspire connections to wildlife and action toward conservation in our region and around the world. Through a variety of programs, both formal and informal, we wish to provide a greater understanding and respect for the animal world, as well as our planet. Without the help of volunteers, we cannot fulfill our mission! If you have any questions, please contact the Zoo Volunteer Manager at (218) 730-4500 ext. 210 or e-mail: [mmichaels@lszoo.org](mailto:mmichaels@lszoo.org)

You may return the completed application by mail or email to:

Lake Superior Zoo  
Attn: Volunteer Manager  
7210 Fremont St.  
Duluth, MN 55807

Thanks again for your interest and we look forward to meeting you!



## **Barnyard Volunteer Position Description**

**Position Title:** Barnyard Attendant

**Supervised By:** Volunteer Manager, Barn Zookeepers

**Principal Working Relationships:** Volunteer Manager, Animal Care Staff

**Term of Appointment:** Minimum of six months active participation.

**Time Commitment:** At least three 1.5-hour barnyard shifts per month are required during the months of May through September.

**Volunteer Program Goal:** The goal of the volunteer program is to assist zoo staff with providing exceptional visitor experiences by volunteering time and talents for tasks that support the mission of the Lake Superior Zoo.

### **Essential Functions:**

- Respond to guest inquiries
- Rule enforcement: no running, yelling, strollers, food/drink
- Monitor animal/guest interaction
- Monitor number of people allowed in barnyard
- Monitor gates in order to prevent animal escape
- Monitor health of animals
- Monitor animal behavior for signs of stress (head-butting, running, inter-animal aggression)

### **Non-Essential Functions:**

- Keep yard clean of fecal matter
- Provide fresh water

**Service Conditions:** Work will be conducted outdoors and subject to all weather conditions. Volunteering may occur on weekdays, weekends and evenings based upon scheduling needs. Because volunteers work with children and vulnerable adults, a criminal record check and reference checks are required prior to assignment.

### **Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities Needed:**

- Ability to maintain a courteous attitude towards the public, staff and peers at all times.
- Ability to communicate in a professional manner.
- Ability to maintain current and accurate records of volunteered hours, to follow direction and work as an individual or with a team.
- Ability to learn, recognize, and read behaviors of multiple species of animals.

- Successful completion of zoo orientation, barnyard attendant volunteer training and participation in ongoing training.

**Physical, Emotional, and Intellectual Demands:**

- Must be 18 years of age or older.
- Must have a willingness to comply with volunteer uniform policy.
- Must have clear speaking skills and the ability to remember facts and interpret information.
- Must be able to lift up to 20 pounds and bend over to use rake, broom and dustpan.
- Must be able to work independently and be outside on feet for 2 hours at a time.

**Equipment used:** Rake, broom, dustpan, grooming brushes

**Evaluation:** Informal check-ins will take place on a regular basis. An evaluation may occur if needed to resolve conflicts, concerns, or other issues.



**Do you have any experience with public speaking? If "yes" please explain.**

**Are you comfortable providing directions to zoo visitors?**

**On a scale of 1-10 (with 1 = "Not at all" and 10 = "Love to") how comfortable are you approaching and speaking to people?**

**Would you be volunteering through another organization? If so, what organization?**

**Please list your current or previous employer:**

Current or Previous Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**May we contact this person for a reference?**

**Please list any current and former volunteer experiences:**

**Please list one non-related reference (can be from work, school, or another organization where you demonstrated work skills)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to you \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known this person? \_\_\_\_\_

**Medical**

This volunteer job requires volunteers to safely perform tasks summarized in this application. Can you perform these duties with (or without) reasonable volunteer job accommodation? If you require accommodation, please describe below.

**Date of your last tetanus shot:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitting this application means the following:**

- You are ready to commit to 27 hours of volunteer time in the barnyard between the months of May and September with additional hours for barnyard trainings.
- You are able to abide by the Lake Superior Zoo's policies and procedures.
- You are able to pass a criminal background check.
- You have a passion for learning, fun, and inspiring visitors to make connections with our animals.

**Initial:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Agreement**

By signing below I acknowledge the following:

-Before being accepted to any position, all volunteers must fill out a complete application, attend an interview with the Volunteer Manager, and pass a criminal background check. A selection process is used in the recruitment phase and not all applicants are accepted into the program.

-I am at least 18 years of age or older, and understand that misrepresenting myself on this application will prohibit me from future acceptance into the program.

-I certify that the information in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge and I understand that falsifying any information may result in termination of my participation in the volunteer program.

-I agree to immediately notify the Lake Superior Zoo if I should be convicted of a crime involving dishonesty, breach of trust, controlled substances, sexual misconduct, abuse or violence while my application is pending or during my period of volunteer service.

-As a volunteer at the Lake Superior Zoo, I understand that I will not come in contact or work directly with any dangerous animals such as tigers, lions, snow leopards, and monkeys.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

<b>For Office Use Only</b>	
Date Received: _____	Left Message: _____(email or phone)
Interview Date: _____	Training Date: _____
United Way Referral:    YES	NO