

NEWS FROM...



FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RE: ADULT VOLUNTEER TRAINING AT PALM BEACH ZOO

DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

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September 28, 2007, West Palm Beach, FL - The Palm Beach Zoo in partnership with Forest Hill Community High School's Adult Education Program has announced a Volunteer Teaching Guide Training Course set to begin on October 11, 2007. Volunteer Teaching Guides are also known as "docents." This seven-week course focuses on zoology, wildlife conservation, the history of zoos, customer service, public speaking, and presentations. The course will take place weekly on Thursday evenings from 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Palm Beach Zoo.

Upon completion of the training course class participants will be qualified to participate in volunteer programs at the Palm Beach Zoo. Volunteer Teaching Guides assist the Zoo in many capacities such as

- Conducting tours of Zoo grounds and exhibits for groups, visitors and VIPs.
- Engaging Zoo visitors in informal conversations using bio-facts to highlight conservation messages.
- Assisting the Education Department staff with educational programs, outreaches and special events.
- Acting as liaisons between the Zoo and public by assisting visitors when the need occurs.
- Assisting Zoo staff with security and safety issues while on Zoo grounds.
- Assisting in other areas of Zoo operation, such as commissary and contact yard.
- Working with staff to provide animal care, and assisting in public presentations with Education Department's animal collection. (These activities require completion of additional training.)

Applicants must be at least eighteen years of age. All volunteers regardless of assignment must present proof of negative TB test administered within the past year. Additionally, new docents must shadow a veteran docent for ten hours in order to successfully meet all training requirements.

Registration closes October 10. To register for classes contact Forest Hill Community High School at (561) 540-2417, on Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and on Friday from 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. You may also contact Karrie Hamilton, Palm Beach Zoo Volunteer Programs Manager at (561) 533-0887 ext. 239 for more information. The fee for the course is \$50, \$10 of which is non-refundable in case of withdrawal. The Zoo expects this class to fill up very quickly and recommends that interested parties act promptly.

The Palm Beach Zoo is a non profit zoological organization located at Dreher Park in West Palm Beach. Its mission is to provide an open-air classroom of living creatures to foster awareness, appreciation and respect for the natural world. The zoo is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Support for the zoo is also provided by the Palm Beach County Tourist Development Council, the Board of County Commissioners and the Palm Beach County Cultural Council.

Palm Beach Zoo is located at 1301 Summit Boulevard, just east of I-95 between Southern and Forest Hill Boulevard. Admission: Regular \$12.95, Seniors 60+ \$9.95, Children 3-12 \$8.95, under 3 years and Zoo Members are free. The zoo is open every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.) For more information visit www.palmbeachzoo.org.

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**Palm Beach Zoo • 1301 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach FL, 33405-3098
(561) 547-WILD • www.palmbeachzoo.org**