Dear Applicant and Parent/Guardian:

The Buffalo Zoo is pleased to offer our Life Science Career Lab program, an eight-week, career-based educational program for teens ages 14-18. This program provides in-depth, hands on experiences for those who have a serious interest in life science careers (e.g. biology, ecology, environmental science, conservation, veterinary science, etc.) but who may have limited opportunities to gain exposure to these careers. Workshops will focus on a different life science career each week. Participants will encounter career-related activities, talk with a professional in that field, and get hands-on experience with that career. Students who successfully complete the eight-week program will be awarded a $250 gift card and have the opportunity to showcase final projects to friends, family, and the zoo community at a special event to be held at the Buffalo Zoo on February 22nd, 2020. In addition, two participants will be offered a paid Buffalo Zoo internship at the end of the program to be completed in the Spring of 2020.

The application process is designed to help determine if this program is right for you. We will not be accepting applications on a first-come, first-served basis. The Life Science Career Lab has very limited space available and we will only accept fifteen participants every year. The small group size ensures that all participants have ample opportunity for individual attention, mentorship, and one-on-one guidance.

To be eligible for program participation, you must:

● be between the ages of 14 and 18 by January 4th, 2020.
● live in Erie County.
● show a demonstrated interest in science.
● show negative results on a PPD Tuberculosis (TB) skin test.
● be available 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. every Saturday from January 4th through February 15th, 2019, and 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. on February 22nd, 2020.

Other factors for consideration will include:

● Identifying as a student from a gender or racial group that is underrepresented in Life Science professions.
● Coming from an economically or educationally disadvantaged background.
● Submitting a compelling application along with a strong letter of recommendation from a current or past guidance counselor or science teacher.

Applications will be accepted through November 25th, 2019. We will notify applicants of their acceptance by November 27th, 2019 by e-mail or mail. Upon receipt of your confirmation letter, you will have one week to accept the opportunity. It is important to
note that PRIOR to the start of the program, the Buffalo Zoo must receive proof of negative results on a PPD Tuberculosis (TB) skin test.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Will I be working with zoo animals during the program?
Yes and no. Although we incorporate a number of special opportunities, animal behavior observations, and hands-on experiences, please note that participants will not be feeding, petting, or training exhibit animals. They will, however, get the opportunity to work closely with the animal collection in our Education Department.

2. How can I work with other exhibit animals?
If working with animals is your goal, then the Life Science Career Lab program is a great step. This program will give you the primary experience needed to further explore your life sciences or animal-related career interests. Once you are in college, the opportunities expand even further. We do accept college interns who can assist zookeepers in various areas of the Zoo.

3. Why do I need to have a TB (tuberculosis) test?
Tuberculosis testing is required. As a standard procedure, all Zoo staff members, volunteers, interns, and other individuals who come in close contact with the animals are required to undergo annual testing for TB. Believe it or not some animals can contract TB from humans. Written proof of negative TB test results is required prior to the start of the program.

Application Check List:
Before submitting your application, please make sure you have all of the listed materials required
- Completed Buffalo Zoo Life Science Career Lab Program Application
- Letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor or science teacher

*Only completed application forms with the above check list completed will be considered.*

Please mail your completed application to:
Buffalo Zoo Life Science Career Lab
300 Parkside Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214

Or fax it to 716-995-6125
Or email it to lthibault@buffalozoo.org

Thank you for your interest in the Life Science Career Lab. We look forward to hearing from you!
2020 Life Science Career Lab Program Application
Application must be received by November 25th, 2019 to be considered for the program.

PLEASE PRINT
Name _________________________________________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip _______________________________________________________________________

Phone (     ) ____________________________ Cell (     ) ____________________________

Email _______________________________________________________________________

Date of Birth (applicants must be at least 14 yrs old by January 4th, 2020)_____________________

Parent/Guardian name(s) ___________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian daytime phone (     ) ________________________________________________

Please mark the boxes that best represent you (optional):
Gender:

☐ Male    ☐ Female

Race:

☐ White    ☐ Black/African AmericanAmerican Indian/Alaskan Native
☐ Asian    ☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander    ☐ Hispanic/Latin
☐ Other: ____________________________

We want to know more about YOU!

What are your qualities? Please rate yourself on each of the following characteristics (5 means it really describes you, 1 means it does not describe you at all).

I am willing to try new things       5  4  3  2  1
I want to work in the life sciences as a career     5  4  3  2  1
I have experience around animals      5  4  3  2  1
I am not afraid to get dirty       5  4  3  2  1
I enjoy teaching and sharing information with other children and adults.   5  4  3  2  1

Please list any clubs or organizations to which you belong (include school and non-school involvement). __________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

List any careers you are interested in learning more about. ______________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Please tell us about any experience you have working in the life sciences (jobs, volunteering, pets, etc.) ______________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
Using a minimum of 100 words, please explain why you are applying for the Life Sciences Career Lab and what you expect to gain from the program. (Use additional paper if necessary)

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How did you hear about the Buffalo Zoo’s Life Science Career Lab Program?

EDUCATION:

Middle School ___________________________ Year of Graduation _____________

High School ____________________________ Current Grade ________________

Please list the science classes or programs you have taken or participated in (past or present):