

## **NGZ Internship Areas and Levels**

**Animal Care**  
**Intro to Internship**  
**Full Internship**  
**Senior Internship**

**Visitor Experience/Animal Education:**  
**Intro to Internship**  
**Full Internship**  
**Senior Internship**

**There are 3 types of internships available in each area: Below is a summary of the internships available in each area. All internships are competitive programs intended to give those participating valuable work and educational experience. All internship positions are unpaid and do require interviews either in person, by phone or by Skype.**

### **Animal Care Internships**

**Intro Internship:** Required 12 weeks, 3 days a week/ 25 hrs. per week. Learn more about zoo keeping by assisting and helping in different areas across the zoo. Interns will help keepers/other staff with various tasks such as husbandry and general animal care taking. Interns are also expected to assist with daily maintenance, projects and cleaning of zoo and zoo animals. While only 3 days a week is required we highly recommend doing 4 as that extra day gives more experience in the actual areas.

*\*\* This internship program has been created for those wanting to do school and or work at the same time. The internship requirements are a lot more basic than the other internships. We ask that the intern is committed, dedicated and willing to help as asked. An evaluation is done at the end of the internship to help the intern better understand their strengths and weaknesses. This internship does fit the requirements for many colleges required internship programs however for in depth experience and learning we recommend one of our other internships. You may also decide after doing the intro internship that you want to apply for the full or extended internship.*

**Full Internship:** Required 12 weeks, 5-6 days a week/40 plus hours. Learn more about zoo keeping by assisting and helping in different areas across the zoo. Full Interns will do daily rotations with keepers and other staff to learn various things such as husbandry, animal nutrition, animal behavior, and general animal care taking. Full Interns are also expected to assist with daily maintenance, projects and cleaning of zoo and zoo animals. Benefits of a Full Internship include learning more on animal training, enrichment and hands on experience which will look great on future resumes. Housing is available upon availability.

**Senior Internship:** Required 12 weeks, 5-6 days a week/40 plus hours a week. (Applicant must complete the Full Internship Program first) With this internship, interns

# North Georgia Zoo- Wildlife Wonders

## Zoological & Educational Internship:

[www.myfavoritezoo.com](http://www.myfavoritezoo.com) [hope@wildlifewonders.org](mailto:hope@wildlifewonders.org) 706-348-7279

---

are trained to have their own small mammals to feed and sharpen their animal husbandry skills. This is a lot more intense learning and requires a lot more commitment and time. Interns in the Senior Internship are held to a higher standard because they are trusted with more responsibility. Senior Interns will still be required to perform many of the duties as they did in the Full Internship such as cleaning, helping keepers/staff and helping with various projects. Housing is available upon availability.

Leadership Internship

### Areas of Internship for Animal Care:

**Animal Care Interns will be required to participate in all aspects for the zoo. Below is a list of various skills and professional job training they may receive as an intern. This is a generalized list and all areas are not limited to or guaranteed.**

#### **Animal areas you will gain exposure/ and or experience in:**

Nursery/baby animals	Birds
Livestock/ farm animals	Exotic mammals
Small mammals	Exotic livestock
Reptiles	Carnivores

**Zoo keeping/ Animal Care:** Learning all aspects of being a zookeeper for specific animals. Extended Interns will be responsible for a few small animal feeds. Duties include diet prep, feeding, enrichment, cleaning, health checks, deworming etc.

**Animal Health/ Vet Care:** Learning all aspects of Animal health and vet care. Interns will learn basic health procedures such as taking temperatures, understanding how to tell a sick animal from a healthy animal, deworming etc..

**Farm Animal/ Livestock education:** Petting zoo/ pony rides. This area requires that a person understands the role of livestock is just as an important as exotics and other animals. Farm animals are vital to a child's education and learning. Interns will learn how to handle these animals, set up enclosures, and educate patrons on these animals.

**Livestock production and care:** A large part of Wildlife Wonder is preservation, production of rare breeds, unique livestock. With this area you will learn all aspects of doing so responsibly and have a passion for these animals. This includes birthing and nursery care plus. Interns will learn how important it is to make sure all animals are accounted for, how to do herd management etc.

**Animal Training:** This area also overlaps with many other areas. Animal training is vital to good zoo keeping, vet visits, production and education. Animal training is typically done by select staff and there may be opportunities to assist in training sessions. **Rehabilitation/Rescue:** Responsible for picking up/ transporting, helping, feeding animals that are in Rehabilitation and or being rescued. This is only done if there is funding and staff. This is a small part of Wildlife Wonders as we have to make sure the animals here receive the best care possible

# North Georgia Zoo- Wildlife Wonders

## Zoological & Educational Internship:

[www.myfavoritezoo.com](http://www.myfavoritezoo.com) [hope@wildlifewonders.org](mailto:hope@wildlifewonders.org) 706-348-7279

---

**Building/maintenance/enclosure design:** Be a part of putting up a new enclosure, building, repairing etc.

**Maintenance/ Cleaning/ organizing:** All interns will be required to participate/ learn and be able to take seriously how important it is to clean, organize, repair. This area is the area that when someone wants to work with animals, they fail to realize this is about 50% of any person's day working with animals! It is vital no strings, garbage are left out, it is vital supplies are put away; you will read more about this in your staff manual. All level interns are required to show they understand and take this area seriously. Enrichment: You will learn all about what enrichment is and how to provide enrichment for particular animals. This area is normally overseen by keepers.

## Animal Care Internship Expectations

### Animal Care Full Internship Expectations:

You must be able to complete the below list PLUS show that you understand the different aspects of the above list. Because we are a privately owned zoological facility, you have the privilege of working closely with those already here and learning at a faster pace these areas below should become almost second nature after your Full Internship is done.

- Be able to tell about North Georgia Zoo & Farm/Wildlife Wonders, its purpose and what WW does.
- Be able to walk the compound and be observant enough to pick up misplaced objects, catch animals not acting right or animals not where they are supposed to be
- Be able to do general sick animal care: this includes getting an animal steady till the vet can come, deworming, understanding your basic first steps to checking a sick animal. Knowing how to tell a sick animal from a non sick animal.
- Have a basic understanding of enrichment and be able to provide enrichment for at least 3 animals.
- Have a basic understanding of the zoological business and its purpose.
- Have a basic understanding of programs and their purpose
- Show skill in animal handling
- Show skill in basic animal care/ zoo keeping
- Be able to work well with others
- Be able to respect both animals and people
- Be able to be trustworthy and responsible
- Be able to lift a 50lb bag of feed and put it where it belongs.
- Have a solid understanding of all important aspects of animal care.
- Have a solid understanding of the intern/staff/volunteer manual.
- Be able to locate the different areas of the compound
- Be able to locate supplies and their areas.
- Animal Diets: must be able to show a basic understanding of nutritional values of certain foods, a generalized understanding of the different categories of food.
- Be able to identify, use chemicals, cleaners properly and know, understand the dangerous side of certain chemicals and cleaners
- Be able to promote North Georgia Zoo and Wildlife Wonders

# North Georgia Zoo- Wildlife Wonders Zoological & Educational Internship:

[www.myfavoritezoo.com](http://www.myfavoritezoo.com) [hope@wildlifewonders.org](mailto:hope@wildlifewonders.org) 706-348-7279

---

- Be able to communicate effectively with others including staff, visitors and students
- Have an understanding of what it means to be team player
- Have a basic understanding of animal training and its use

## Animal Care Senior Internship Expectations

After a Senior internship you should be able to effectively lead, communicate and work as a team member who takes on the role of a leader. You should fully understand the responsibilities of working within your areas that you are assigned and be trusted to ensure that your area is working efficiently, safely and in the best interest of the animals and Wildlife Wonders/North Georgia Zoo.

We take the Senior Internship very seriously and require a commitment to move past a Full Internship mentality as learner and move on into effective leadership in your area.

Note: leadership does not necessarily mean taking charge of others as it does taking responsibility for your assigned job, task and animals. You will be responsible to be in the KNOW and do your research and ensure you are fully capable to do the job to its full extent without supervision. This does include assisting with teaching others including other interns, volunteers, visitors and more. You must be able to communicate efficiently the value of your position and responsibility.

*\*\*In some cases where a potential intern has already volunteered, has proven he/she is capable and understands the basic requirements of a Full Intern, they may move to the level of a Senior Intern. If the Full Internship is not completed the first time due to an unforeseen circumstance, an intern may be given the opportunity to come back and complete the internship at another time. Any intern that does not take their internship seriously or fails to follow rules or causes disruptions will be dismissed from the program. If this happens, that intern will not be allowed back into the program.*

## Visitor Experience/Animal Education Internships

**Intro Internship:** Required 12 weeks, 3 days a week/ 25 hrs. per week. Learn about animals, creating a great visitor experience, guest relations, animal education and presentation, and running a business by assisting and helping in different areas across the petting zoo and tour areas. Interns are expected to assist with daily maintenance, projects and cleaning of zoo and zoo animals. Interns are also invited to attend specialty tours and events for additional animal handling opportunities. You will also learn about zoo keeping/ animal husbandry by assisting in some domesticated animal care. While only 3 days a week is required we highly recommend doing 4 as that extra day gives more experience in the actual areas.

# North Georgia Zoo- Wildlife Wonders

## Zoological & Educational Internship:

[www.myfavoritezoo.com](http://www.myfavoritezoo.com) [hope@wildlifewonders.org](mailto:hope@wildlifewonders.org) 706-348-7279

---

*\*\* This internship program has been created for those wanting to do school and or work at the same time. The internship requirements are a lot more basic than the other internships. We ask that the intern is committed, dedicated and willing to help as asked. An evaluation is done at the end of the internship to help the intern better understand their strengths and weaknesses. This internship does fit the requirements for many colleges' required internship programs, however, for in-depth experience and learning we recommend one of our other internships. You may also decide after doing the intro internship that you want to apply for the full or extended internship.*

**Full Internship:** Required 12 weeks, 5-6 days per week/40 plus hours. Includes all of the opportunities available in into level internship and more. Learn more about animal handling and presenting animals as part of keeper talks, how to utilize positive reinforcement training methods, feeding and milking demonstrations, tours and encounters. Assist with camps, parties, field trips, and special events to inspire and educate the public while making their visit exceptional.  
*Housing is available upon availability.*

**Senior Internship:** Required 12 weeks, 5-6 days a week/40 plus hours a week. (Applicant must complete the Full Internship Program first) With this internship, interns are trained to lead tours, camel encounters and potentially other higher-level encounters. They can share their knowledge with newer interns as well as visitors. Senior interns are given the opportunity to assist in developing educational materials and training materials. This is a lot more intense learning and requires a lot more commitment and time. Interns in the Senior Internship are held to a higher standard because they are trusted with more responsibility. Senior Interns will still be required to perform many of the duties as they did in the Full Internship such as cleaning, helping staff and helping with various projects.  
*Housing is available upon availability.*

*\*\*Daily starting time and ending time for all internships varies but typically days go from 8:30 am-5:30pm. However, special events are often held after hours and if there are projects needing finished up that day, the day can go longer. There will be several learning opportunities such as animal handling, Get To Know Your Zoo sessions and bird training/handling, etc. for interns and staff after hours. Some of these trainings are required for interns and staff.*

### **Areas of Internship for Visitor Experience/Animals Education**

**Visitor Experience/Animal Education Interns will be required to participate in all aspects of the Petting Zoo and tour areas. Below is a list of various skills and professional job training they may receive as an intern. This is a generalized list and all areas are not limited to or guaranteed.**

# North Georgia Zoo- Wildlife Wonders

## Zoological & Educational Internship:

[www.myfavoritezoo.com](http://www.myfavoritezoo.com) [hope@wildlifewonders.org](mailto:hope@wildlifewonders.org) 706-348-7279

---

**Visitor Experience** : You will learn what is involved in getting the petting zoo and facility ready for tours and visits, how to interact with guests, presenting, tours, and coordinating groups for onsite field trips and specialty tours and events. In addition you will learn how to run the ticket booth, gift shop, and more.

**Education/ Wildlife Educator**: Learn how to handle and present animals in a fun and educational way. This requires both animal handling and people skills. Full Interns or Extended Interns will start with basic small mammals and reptiles. You will learn proper handling techniques, facts about them and presenting skills. You will learn how to do Camel Encounter tours and Wildlife Walk tours.

**Creation Encounters**: Nonprofit outreach programs for underprivileged children and special situations. This area is open depending on funding. Right now Creation Encounters does not have the funding to do many programs. If an intern wanted to learn all aspects of a non-profit outreach animal organization, this area starts at ground zero. Some areas include: Organizing fundraisers, getting donations for programs, selecting organizations that receive programs etc. This is still a ground breaking organization that is not yet standing on its own.

**Camps**: Here you will be responsible for teaching students about the animals, coordinating their schedule, check in, ensuring safety and more.

**Maintenance/ Cleaning/ organizing**: All interns will be required to participate in, learn, and be able to take seriously, how important it is to clean, organize and repair. This area is the area that when someone wants to work with animals, they fail to realize this is about 50% of any person's day working with animals! It is vital that no strings, garbage or other hazards are left out, and that supplies are put away; you will read more about this in your staff manual.

All level interns are required to show they understand and take this area seriously.

**Birthday Parties**: Birthday parties and other private onsite events are the opportunity to literally make dreams come true! These events can inspire the next generation! These very personal events let you gain additional animal experience while also interfacing with a small group in a relaxed setting.

*\*\*In some cases where a potential intern has already volunteered, has proven he/she is capable and understands the basic requirements of a Full Intern, they may move to the level of an Extended Intern. If the Full Internship is not completed the first time due to an unforeseen circumstance, an intern may be given the opportunity to come back and complete the internship at another time. Any intern that does not take their internship seriously or fails to follow rules or causes disruptions will be dismissed from the program. If this happens, that intern will not be allowed back into the program.*

## [Visitor Experience/Animal Education Internship Expectations](#)

### [Visitor Experience/Animal Education Full Internship Expectations](#)

# North Georgia Zoo- Wildlife Wonders

## Zoological & Educational Internship:

[www.myfavoritezoo.com](http://www.myfavoritezoo.com) [hope@wildlifewonders.org](mailto:hope@wildlifewonders.org) 706-348-7279

---

You must be able to complete the below list PLUS show that you understand the different aspects of the above list. Because we are a privately owned zoological facility, you have the privilege of working closely with those already here and learning at a faster pace, these areas below should become almost second nature after your Full Internship is done.

- Be able to describe North Georgia Zoo, Wildlife Wonders and Paradise valley Farms and discuss the differing roles of each part of our business.
- Be able to walk the petting zoo and compound areas and be observant enough to pick up misplaced objects, catch animals not acting right or animals not where they are supposed to be.
- Be able to present at least 6-10 different animals to a variety of age levels.
- Be able to oversee the petting zoo area for visitors (including Kiddie Corral and Parakeet Landing)
- Be able to give a guided tour filled with fun animal facts.
- Be able to keep a tour group together and on time.
- Be able to properly handle animals for a Zippity Zoo presentations and Keeper Talks.
- Be able to conduct a fact-filled Camel Encounter.
- Assess and anticipate customer wants and needs to create a great experience
- Be self-motivated in learning and studying provided facts
- Be excited to be part of the face of the zoo, and an integral part of our mission to bring people and animals together.
- Be prepared to have late days when special events are held and take advantage of the learning opportunities they offer.
- Be flexible about needed changes to written schedule, and jump in when needed.
- Have a basic understanding of the zoological business and its purpose.
- Show skill in animal handling
- Show skill in education
- Be able to work well with others
- Be able to respect animals, people, and policies
- Be able to be trustworthy and responsible
- Be able to lift a 50lb bag of feed and put it where it belongs.
- Have a solid understanding of the importance of experience in animal education.
- Have a solid understanding of the intern/staff/volunteer manual.
- Be able to locate the different areas of the zoo
- Be able to locate supplies and their areas.
- Be comfortable discussing the importance of zoos as a whole
- Be able to identify and use chemicals/cleaners properly understand the dangerous side of certain chemicals and cleaners
- Be able to promote North Georgia Zoo and Wildlife Wonders
- Be able to communicate effectively with others including staff, visitors and students
- Have an understanding of what it means to be team player
- Have a basic understanding of animal training and its use

### Visitor Experience Senior Internship Expectations

# North Georgia Zoo- Wildlife Wonders Zoological & Educational Internship:

[www.myfavoritezoo.com](http://www.myfavoritezoo.com) [hope@wildlifewonders.org](mailto:hope@wildlifewonders.org) 706-348-7279

---

After a Senior internship you should be able to effectively lead, communicate and work as a team member who takes on the role of a leader. You should fully understand the responsibilities of working within your areas that you are assigned and be trusted to ensure that your area is working efficiently, safely and in the best interest of the animals, visitors and Wildlife Wonders/North Georgia Zoo.

We take the Senior Internship very seriously and require a commitment to move past a Full Internship mentality as learner and move on into effective leadership in your area.

Note: leadership does not necessarily mean taking charge of others as it does taking responsibility for your assigned work and growth/education. You will be responsible to be in the KNOW and do your research and ensure you are fully capable to do the job to its full extent without supervision. This does include assisting with teaching others including other interns, volunteers, visitors and more. You must be able to communicate efficiently the value of your position and responsibility.