



# Conservation Keeper 2023 Application/Registration

- Please type or print clearly, using black or blue ink.
- Please complete all information on all pages, including the essay questions.
- A letter of recommendation from a teacher or advisor **MUST** be included with this application.
- Incomplete applications may not be considered.
- Students must be between 14-18 years or graduating 12th grade.
- There is a \$200.00 registration fee to be paid after one is accepted in the program, but before the orientation day

**CONSIDERATIONS (Please read thoroughly before completing):** We are looking for responsible, enthusiastic youth with an interest in working in a zoological environment, and who can interact positively with staff, volunteers and guests. Students of all academic levels will be considered for the program. **There is limited availability and students will have to participate in an interview prior to being selected for this program.** Our previous Zoo Teen program allowed youth to gain volunteer hours. Youth that complete this program may sign up for volunteer hours at the Zoo after program completion.

## YOUTH INFORMATION (Please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name [First & Last]

Preferred Pronoun: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Sizes [adult]: S  M  L  XL  2XL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

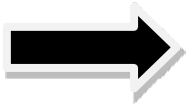
\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Email Address

Will you be 14 years old or older as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023?

Yes  No

Birth Date [MM/DD/YYYY]: \_\_\_\_\_



Before submitting this application, students with busy schedules such as sports, band camps, long vacations, jobs, etc., should carefully consider whether they have the time to commit to the program. Parental and family involvement is NECESSARY, as transportation, encouragement and support of the teens are critical for a great experience. Missing any days or significant tardiness may affect program performance. There will be no refunds for this program after payment.

### Program Dates

There will be a mandatory orientation on Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 9am-4pm. This is designed to showcase the duties and responsibilities of a Conservation Keeper, go through the handbook, and get acquainted. It will also allow students to ask questions and learn more specific details about the program.

Keeper Days: (youth will be slotted into one of these sections based on their schedule and availability)

- July 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>
- July 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>
- July 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>

Conservation Classroom Days: ALL MUST ATTEND

I will attend the Orientation (tentative):

**Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 9am-4pm.**

(Initial here)

### YOUTH COMMITMENT

Youth involved in this Conservation Keeper program are expected to follow the same guidelines as Zoo employees. If selected, youth are required to report to their assignment on their scheduled days. All days are from 9am to 4pm with a hour lunch, but the schedule may vary based on the needs of the specific assignment, daily programming and staffing. In the case of an absence, it is the responsibility of the youth to contact the Coordinator of their absence.

### YOUTH APPLICANT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING:

I understand that I will participate in an interview, and that this interview is not a guarantee that I will be selected for a position in the Conservation Keeper Program. I understand that if I am selected, I must attend Orientation and all other required program days. In addition, I understand that I must follow all policies and procedures of the Program, including uniform guidelines.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Youth Applicant Signature*

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

### PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Work phone*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Cell phone*

### PARENT/GUARDIAN OF YOUTH APPLICANT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING:

I understand that if selected as a participant in the Conservation Keepers Program, my son/daughter/ward will be committed to being present at the Zoo on their scheduled days. As a parent/guardian, I will support my son/daughter/ward's participation by providing and facilitating transportation, encouragement and support as needed. I also understand that I will be required to sign an acknowledgment of risk form and a zoo liability release form if my son/daughter/ward is accepted into the Conservation Keepers Program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian Signature*

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

**PLEASE RETURN APPLICATION, ALONG WITH LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FROM EITHER A TEACHER, MENTOR OR EMPLOYER, TO:**

Zoo New York, One Thompson Park Watertown, NY 13601 -OR- FAX to  
**315.782.6192 - OR - Return by email to [sylvan@zoonewyork.org](mailto:sylvan@zoonewyork.org)**

Contact Haley Sylvan at 315-755-0896 or via email at [sylvan@zoonewyork.org](mailto:sylvan@zoonewyork.org) with any questions.

**The deadline for completed applications including Letter of Recommendation, is May 10th, 2023**

**Applications postmarked, emailed, faxed or delivered after this deadline may not be considered.**

Print Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

## General Essay Questions

You may answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper if necessary. Please type or print clearly, as our staff has to be able to read them.

1. There are many different program/summer opportunities in Watertown New York. Why do you want to join Conservation Keepers at Zoo New York? Please be as specific as possible.
2. What does conservation mean to you?
3. Have you had any volunteer experiences in the past? If so, where did you volunteer and what were your responsibilities?
4. At the Zoo, we work around animals in enclosed environments. Please provide a brief explanation stating how you feel about animals in human care.
5. What excites you/interests you in working with or around animals? Explain.
6. During this program youth will be in areas that put them within close proximity to the animals living at Zoo New York. Describe any previous animal experience you may have that would help you in this situation and explain how you would act.

