



## 2019 VolunTEEN Program Application

To be a VolunTEEN: You must be 14 (or entering 9th grade in the fall of 2019) to 17 years old, and able to volunteer a full week at a time, Monday to Friday, for 2 weeks throughout the summer.

Please also submit two (2) letters of recommendations together with hard copy of your application to:

Turtle Back Zoo VolunTEEN Program  
Attention: Randy Laxer, Volunteer Coordinator  
560 Northfield Avenue  
West Orange, NJ 07052

**The deadline to apply for the 2019 program is April 1, 2019.**

The two (2) letters of recommendation from adults who know you well, such as a teacher or scout leader (not friends or family). Your recommendations should address the following: dependability, leadership abilities, ability to work with others, willingness to learn, and self-motivation.

We advise giving people at least three weeks' notice to write recommendations, and allow at least 4 days for mail delivery.

1. **Email address** \* *Required*

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2. **Full Name** \*

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3. **Birthdate** \*

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4. **Age in June 2019**

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5 **Grade Entering in September 2019** \*

*Mark only one oval.*

9th (Freshman)

10th (Sophomore)

11th (Junior)

12th (Senior)

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Other

6. **Name of School \***

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7. **Teen's Phone Number \***

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8. **Home Address \***

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9. **Name of Parents/Guardians \***

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10. **Phone Number of Parents/Guardians \***

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11. **Parents/Guardian's Home Address (if different from Teen's address)**

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## **VolunTEEN Prior Experience**

Whether you are a new or returning VolunTEEN will determine which questions you will be asked next.

12. **Are you a returning VolunTEEN? \***

*Mark only one oval.*

Yes *Continue to question 13, then skip to question 22 (page 5).*

No *Skip to question 14 (page 3).*

13. **If yes, what year(s) did you serve as a VolunTEEN? Check all that apply.**

2018

2017

2016

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

# ZooTeen Applicant Background

VolunTEEN program participants assist Camp Counselor staff with the Zoo's Summer Camp program. They help prepare for the daily camp sessions, assist children with crafts and activities, and help keep children together and safe while on Zoo grounds. Working as a VolunTEEN is a great way to learn about animals at the zoo and share your love and enthusiasm for wildlife with younger peers. Not only is it a fun way to spend part of the summer, you will earn those much needed volunteer hours for upcoming college applications.

We do not have enough opportunities at this time to accommodate all those who want to volunteer at the Zoo, so please do not be discouraged if you are not initially selected for the VolunTEEN Program. We keep a wait list, and sometimes those on the wait list are brought into the program later because others are unable to fulfill their commitment.

The following questions, should you be selected, will help us to place you in the best fit camp.

14. **Have you ever been in TBZ's Zoo Camp Program, as a camper?** *Mark only one oval.*  
*\* New VolunTEENS only*

Yes  
 No

15. **If "Yes," when & with what age group?** *\* New VolunTEENS only*

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16. **Do you have any volunteer experience?** *Mark only one oval. \* New VolunTEENS only*

Yes  
 No

17. **If "yes," please list & describe your volunteer experience.** *\* New VolunTEENS only*

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18. **Do you have any prior experience working with children your age or younger? (ex: a mentor, tutor, babysitter, etc.)** *Mark only one oval. \* New VolunTEENS only*

Yes  
 No

19. **If "yes," please explain your experience.** \* *New VolunTEENS only*

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20. **Why do zoos matter?** \* *New VolunTEENS only*

Please answer this in short essay form to help us get a better impression of what you know about zoos and conservation!

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21. **Why do you want to be a Zoo Camp aide?** \* *New VolunTEENS only*

Please answer this in short essay form to help us get a better impression of who you are!

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22. **What age groups are you interested in working with most? VolunTEENS work with children from Kindergarten through 6th grade. \***

*Check all that apply.*

- Kindergarten/age 5
- 1st and 2nd Grade
- 3rd and 4th Grade
- 5th and 6th Grade

23. **Why would you be interested in working with the above selected age groups most? \***

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24. **T-Shirt Size for VolunTeen Uniforms (adult sizing) \* Mark only one oval.**

- XS
- S
- M
- L
- XL
- XXL
- XXXL

# Warning, Waiver, & Release of Liability

**\*\*Please have your Parent/Guardian sign the below liability waiver. This portion of the form must be filled out by no other than the Parent/Guardian\*\***

25. **VolunTEEN's Name \***

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## **In consideration of being given permission to participate in the Essex County Turtle Back Zoo's VolunTEEN Program (Supervised by the Camp Staff and Volunteer Coordinator)**

I hereby waive, release and discharge any and all claims for damages for death, personal injury or property damage which I may have, or which hereafter accrue to me, against the County of Essex or the Essex County Turtle Back Zoo as a result of my child's participation in the above listed Event. I realize that accidents and injuries can arise out of the Event, and accordingly, this release is intended to discharge the County, its trustees, officers, employees, commission members, and volunteers, and any public agencies from and against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with his or her participation in the Event. This waiver and release is binding upon my heirs and assigns.

I acknowledge that I have been fully informed of the risks and dangers involved in this activity. I acknowledge that I have read, agree, and fully understand the above Warning, Waiver, and Release of Liability. I further acknowledge and agree that the reasons for my being requested to sign this Release have been fully explained to me and I understand them. If any provision, including any exception, part, phrase, or term, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby and the validity of this waiver in any and all other respects shall not be affected thereby.

I am signing this instrument of my own free will and I have not been influenced or coerced by any representative or employee of the County of Essex or the Essex County Turtle Back Zoo:

26. **Do you agree to the above acknowledgements? \* Mark only one oval.**

- Yes  
 No

27. **Parent/Guardian Signature \***

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28. **Date of Signature \***

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