



# ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO



## 2025 DOCENT APPLICATION

Name:		Birthdate:	Age:
Address:			
City:	ST:	ZIP:	
Home phone:		Cell phone:	
Email:		T-shirt size:	

Occupation (current or former):		
Employer:		
Address:		
City:	ST:	ZIP:
Phone:		

Educational Background (Indicate highest level completed and area of major study):

- Elementary     
  High School     
  College     
  Graduate School  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Study: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am in school now      Name of school: \_\_\_\_\_

What day(s) would you be interested in volunteering at the Zoo?

- Weekend List days: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weekday List days: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about the Docent Training Program?

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Do you have any limitations or allergies that might prevent you from walking around the Zoo or participating in any docent activities? Please explain.

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Have you ever done volunteer work with Turtle Back Zoo or any other organization? Please explain. Include your length of service and level of involvement.

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Do you have any special training, skills, interests or hobbies? If so please indicate them below:

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Do you speak any foreign language(s)? (Please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

When was the last time you visited Turtle Back Zoo and what were your impressions?

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Do you understand that although you will be working in an animal-oriented atmosphere, MOST of your work will be dealing with people - many of them children?  Yes  No

It may be necessary to work in inclement weather. Would this cause a problem for you?

Yes  No

It may be necessary to correct inappropriate behavior by the public. Would this cause a problem for you?  Yes  No

Being a docent requires you to:

- be at least 18 years old
- **complete an interview held on Saturday, Jan. 18 (snow date Sunday, Jan. 19)**
- **complete an 8-day specialized training course held on Sundays: Feb. 9, 16, 23, and March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 12:00 noon to 5:00pm (snow date Sunday, April 6)**
- pay a one-time fee of \$30 to cover training materials\*
- commit to volunteer a designated number of hours/events. Hours are gained from attending a set day (i.e.; 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays) each month throughout the year. Docents are also expected to staff special events, such as Safe Howl-o-ween and Brew at the Zoo, as they occur throughout the year.
- wear the docent uniform when working with the public (blue docent shirt & khaki pants or blue jeans and appropriate footwear)
- be a good representative and guide/educator to the visiting public

Do you foresee any problems fulfilling any of these mandatory requirements?

Please explain.

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\*Please note that there is a one-time training course fee to offset cost of materials (\$30.00). If you send a check, please make it out to **Essex County Parks Foundation** and on the memo line put **Docent Class**.

- Please return, **with payment**, by **January 10**, to: **Volunteer Coordinator, Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, 560 Northfield Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052** OR email the application to [tbzdocents@parks.essexcountynj.org](mailto:tbzdocents@parks.essexcountynj.org).
- Please be sure to complete the County Criminal Background Check which can be found here: [https://v2-trionaid.screenmenow.com/v2/home?c=SLTR\\_00395](https://v2-trionaid.screenmenow.com/v2/home?c=SLTR_00395)
- When your application is received you will be contacted to set up an interview.

\*\*\*\*\*THIS FEE IS NONREFUNDABLE\*\*\*\*\*

**Any questions: please email [tbzdocents@parks.essexcountynj.org](mailto:tbzdocents@parks.essexcountynj.org).**