



For Office Use Only  
 Date Received: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
 Accepted: Y or N

# 2026 ZOO CREW APPLICATION

Application due by **4:00pm on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – No exceptions!**

## Zoo Crew Applicant’s Information:

*(This section of application must be entirely filled out by the Zoo Crew applicant—not the parent!)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Zoo Crew’s cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ (if you don’t have one leave blank)

Zoo Crew’s e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (if you don’t have one consider making one for easy communication)

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age (Current): \_\_\_\_\_

Grade next fall\*: \_\_\_\_\_ School attending in the fall: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously been a Zoo Crew Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Must be entering at least 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2026!**

## Youth, please read carefully before signing and applying!

I understand that Zoo Crew members are scheduled approximately two to three shifts per week, which may include early mornings, weekends, evenings, and special events. The Zoo will work around my other activities/obligations as much as possible; however, **I should not apply if I do not have the time or desire to dedicate 110% effort to the zoo.** I understand that Zoo Crew requires I attend a **mandatory** all-day training on **May 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>**. If I cannot make this training my spot will be forfeited. In addition, a lot of training will occur “on-the-job”, and I must be willing and able to take instructions and work hard to be better and better each shift. I also understand that Zoo Crew is an educational volunteer experience and a fee of \$75 +tax (\$80.76) is required. (The money will be used for uniform shirts, orientation materials and processing fees.) Do not send money now, you will be contacted by a Zoo employee for a group interview after all applications are received. Payment will be taken at training if accepted. I understand that after all interviews have been completed only **45** Zoo Crew members will be accepted into the program. I understand that I will be helping with education classes, Roots & Shoots programs, outreach, special events, zookeeping, cleaning, staffing the Zoo Crew Corner in the KidZoo, and other duties as assigned. I understand that failure to follow the rules may result in losing my Zoo Crew spot. If you miss 2 shifts without sufficient prior notice, your participation will be terminated.

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Help us get to know you and your goals. Please take the time to answer the following questions as complete and honestly as possible. Your answers will help us to make the summer a successful and fun experience for you and us.

### **Volunteer Work**

If you have volunteered before, please list the name of the organization(s), and describe what you did. If you run out of room, please continue on a separate piece of paper.

\_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Location Supervisor Dates Telephone Number

Please describe your volunteer work. \_\_\_\_\_

Circle whether you agree or disagree with the following statements. There is no right or wrong answer!

I enjoy teaching and sharing information. Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I am an artistic person. Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I am willing to try new things at least once. Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I enjoy kids. Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I want to learn about animals. Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I think I might be interested in a zoo career. Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I do not mind getting dirty when I volunteer. Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I do not mind hard work. Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

**T-shirt Information:** Please circle one:

Adult Small Adult Medium Adult Large Adult X-Large Adult XX-Large Adult XXX-L

Please take the time to fully answer the following questions in your own words. Answers should be essay-style and typed or neatly printed on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why do you want to be a part of the Zoo Crew Program?
2. What hobbies or interests do you have?
3. Have you ever worked with children? If so, please explain.
4. What do you hope to take away from working with the Zoo Crew Program this season?

**References:**

Please list the two individuals that you have asked to be references. We will be checking references prior to offering the volunteer position to any candidate.

1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

**For Parents:**

**THE FOLLOWING IS A RELEASE! PLEASE READ**

I, the undersigned parent or legal guardian of the above child, do hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Watertown, its agents, volunteers and employees from any and all liability for damages resulting from incidents occurring from participation in the above program, or any incident related to the above child's attendance in said program. I verify that I am the parent or legal guardian of the above child. I acknowledge that the City of Watertown does not carry medical or liability insurance on program participants. Photographs and videos taken of Zoo Crew volunteers may be used in pamphlets, brochures, newsletters, social media sites and the like for publicity and advertising purposes. I also understand that non-compliance by my child may result in expulsion from the program (please read the disclaimer in the applicant section above).

**Signature of Parent/Guardian** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Information:**

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City & State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of an emergency, is there an additional contact?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any medications, allergies, or medical restrictions of which we should be aware:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please return completed applications to Jaime in-person at the zoo, via email at [jstricker@brambleparkzoo.com](mailto:jstricker@brambleparkzoo.com) or mail to: PO Box 910, Watertown, SD 57201**

**Deadline for application: Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 4:00pm**

You may use this sheet (or another sheet) to answer the essay questions:

1.)

2.)

3.)

4.)