



Dear Internship Candidate,

Thanks for your interest in becoming a part of the team here at the WNC Nature Center, a part of the City of Asheville's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. With over 40 acres of Southern Appalachian habitat, the WNC Nature Center is a prime attraction in the Asheville area for families, residents, and visitors. The Nature Center is proud to be accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. We welcome over 108,000 visitors annually and provide care for over 60 species of wild and domestic animals as we work towards our mission of connecting people with the animals and plants of the Southern Appalachian Mountain region.

Are you looking to gain experience or to learn more about zoo careers? The WNC Nature Center is searching for seasonal interns to assist with our animal, education, and exhibits departments. All of our internship positions are volunteer non-paid positions; internships may be eligible for school credit, pending your school's approval. The Nature Center can only host a limited number of interns each season, so the selection process is competitive.

Should you be searching for a full-time or paid position with the Nature Center or Asheville Parks and Recreation, you can check the City's website at [www.ashevillenc.gov](http://www.ashevillenc.gov). All our hiring is done through the City's website, which updates each week on Thursdays. The Friends of the WNC Nature Center also searches for internships through the AmeriCorps Organization. Call the Friends of the WNC Nature Center office at 828-259-8092 for more information.

Both the Nature Center and the Friends of the Nature Center are always looking for volunteers. If you're not able to commit to a full internship or if you are not offered a formal internship, please consider volunteering. To find out more about volunteering, visit our website: [www.wildwnc.org/volunteer/join-our-team](http://www.wildwnc.org/volunteer/join-our-team).

For general information regarding internship possibilities at the WNC Nature Center, please see the descriptions below. [See our website for current internship openings and applications.](#)





## Animal Department Internships

Internship Dates:	Application Deadline:
August – December	July 20
January – May	November 20
May – August	April 20
August – December	July 20

**Time:** 9:00-4:30, 35-40 hours per week (flexible hours)

**Location:** WNC Nature Center, east Asheville

**Sponsor:** City of Asheville's Parks and Recreation Department

The WNC Nature Center offers non-paid naturalist (animal keeper) internships to qualified applicants seasonally. Each intern will have a defined placement and defined responsibilities within the animal department, as described below:

Nature Lab Intern - Include, but are not limited to:

- Day to day cleaning of all microhabitats
- Weekly/Monthly full cleans of microhabitats
- Recording and logging of meals and cleans
- Water testing on aquatic habitats
- Public presentations and handling of reptiles and amphibians
- Cleaning and maintaining of behind-the-scenes areas
- Daily enrichment for herp collection
- Assist keeper in feeding of herp collection
- Ability to follow direction(s) precisely
- Ability to listen and adhere to any and all instructions
- Assist other animal keepers, staff, interns and volunteers as needed

Small Mammal Intern - Include, but are not limited to:

- Daily cleaning of otter habitat
- Daily cleaning of otter backup areas
- Daily cleaning of weasel habitat
- Daily cleaning of fox and raccoon backup areas
- Daily enrichment of all small mammals
- Assist keeper in feeding of all small mammals
- Public presentations on small mammals
- Ability to follow direction(s) precisely

- Ability to listen and adhere to any and all instructions
- Record keeping as needed
- Cleaning and maintaining of behind-the-scenes areas
- Assist other animal keepers, staff, interns and volunteers as needed

Predator/Bear Intern - Include, but are not limited to:

- Ability to follow direction(s) precisely
- Ability to listen and adhere to any and all instructions
- Able to work outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Helping animal keeper daily while cleaning animal habitats and back-up areas.
  - This includes: Hosing, raking, shoveling, sweeping, scrubbing, moping, and various other duties.
- Sometimes helping with other projects as needed, this includes:
  - Helping with habitat maintenance and renovation including lawn work such as weed-eating.
  - Helping prepare and present enrichment.
  - Observing and sometimes helping in animal desensitization and operant conditioning training.
  - Learning meal making for the entire park and being able to carry out this task on own once trained.
- Assist other animal keepers, staff, interns and volunteers as needed

Wildlife Rehabilitation Intern - Include, but are not limited to:

- Intake of injured and orphaned wild animals from the general public
- Ability to communicate with people both in person and over the telephone
- Daily care and maintenance of any wildlife rehabilitation animals
- Work to find placement of injured and orphaned wild animals with appropriate wildlife rehabilitators with the help of Nature Center staff
- Take messages and relay correct and helpful information to the public
- Daily cleaning of the wildlife rehabilitation room and supplies
- Daily cleanup of any soiled laundry and bedding
- Ability to follow direction(s) precisely
- Ability to listen and adhere to any and all instructions
- Ability to handle raw meat, rodents, and fish
- Ability to work through simple math for medication dosages (with the help from Nature Center Staff)
- Care of feeder animals (crickets and mealworms)
- Assist with preparing for the wildlife rehabilitation workshop held at the WNC Nature Center
- Assist other animal keepers, staff, interns and volunteers as needed

Meal Making Intern – Include, but are not limited to:

- Ability to read ingredient lists from a meal preparation notebook and follow precisely.
- Ability to weigh ingredients on a digital scale.

- Handling of raw meat, rodents, and fish.
- Chopping produce and fish.
- Using syringes and needles to inject whole prey items.
- Care of feeder animals: crickets and mealworms.

Barn Intern (Barn, Petting Area, Birds of Prey, White Tailed Deer Yard) - Include, but are not limited to:

- Daily cleaning and maintenance in the barn and poultry palace (cleaning stalls, water buckets, feed troughs, hay bags), aviary, and white tailed deer yard
- Moving and stacking hay, straw, pine straw, feed bags, etc.
- Exhibit maintenance in the petting areas, aviary, deer lot, barn, and poultry palace
- Maintaining the petting area (includes cleaning, changing of water, monitoring the animals, and public interactions)
- Daily public interaction and programming
- Helping staff to prepare and distribute enrichment for animals in their care
- Diet preparation
- Ability to execute tasks such as raking, sweeping, shoveling, etc.
- Daily observations of animal behavior, eating habits, and overall health
- Helping the staff with obtaining animal weights and performing hoof trims
- Helping staff inventory barn supplies
- Ability to move and handle feed bags, straw, hay, water buckets etc. of weights of upwards to 50lb on a regular basis
- Ability to handle and use a weed eater
- Ability to handle raw meat, rodents, and fish
- Helping staff with record keeping as needed
- At times helping to work with and supervise a variety of volunteers
- Assist other animal keepers, staff, interns and volunteers as needed
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions
- Ability to follow direction(s) precisely
- Ability to listen and adhere to any and all instructions

Animal Department Internship Requirements: applicants must be able to lift 50 lbs repeatedly and work in all weather conditions. Proof of tetanus vaccination within the last 5 years. These internships may require working some weekend days and holidays. For more information contact Savannah Trantham at [strantham@ashevillenc.gov](mailto:strantham@ashevillenc.gov).





## Environmental Education Internship

<b>Internship Dates:</b>	<b>Application Deadline:</b>
August – December 2016	July 20, 2016
January – May 2017	November 20, 2016
May – August 2017	April 20, 2017
August – December 2017	July 20, 2017

**Time:** 8:30am - 5:30pm, 40 hours per week (flexible hours)

**Location:** WNC Nature Center, east Asheville

**Sponsor:** City of Asheville's Parks and Recreation Department

**Objective:** To develop a basic knowledge of and acquire skills used in planning and design of an educational display and facilitation of programs in a non-formal setting. Topics of discussion include environmental awareness, wildlife ecology and biology, and wilderness conservation.

### Summer Responsibilities:

- Assist with the supervision of the Young Naturalist summer teen volunteer program
- Assist with care of education animal collection (birds of prey, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians)
- Assist with after-care for our summer day camp
- Interact with visitors at docent stations and live meet-an-animal stations
- Learn to create and deliver public interpretive programs
- Learn to collect and report data for national citizen science monitoring projects.
- Care for the education garden (growing food and enrichment items for the animals)
- And other special projects based on intern interest and Nature Center needs

### Qualifications:

- Be at least 18 years of age and have completed at least one year of college-level education.
- Be able to work independently, indoors and outdoors in all kinds of weather and on uneven terrain.
- Have good communication skills. Must enjoy speaking to the public and be willing to engage passing visitors.
- Be willing to work with groups of children, adults, and teenagers.
- Be willing to handle and care for reptiles, amphibians, insects, and barn animals.
- Knowledge of native plants and animals is preferred, but not required.



## Exhibits Internship

Internship Dates:	Application Deadline:
August – December 2016	July 20, 2016
January – May 2017	November 20, 2016
May – August 2017	April 20, 2017
August – December 2017	July 20, 2017

**Time:** 8:30am - 5:30pm, 40 hours per week (flexible hours)

**Location:** WNC Nature Center, east Asheville

**Sponsor:** City of Asheville's Parks and Recreation Department

Objective: To develop a basic knowledge of and acquire skills used in planning, design, and fabrication of zoological and natural history exhibits. Major Responsibilities: Will assist Exhibits Curator in a variety of ongoing productions of signs and graphics, landscaping, exhibits maintenance and repair, and fabrication of exhibits. Renovation of the Nature Center's exhibits and on-site and offsite signs for the city will be the primary tasks this summer. May include working with cement, wire, graphics, rebar, etc. in a physically demanding environment. Work with power and hand tools desirable.

Requirements: College student in biological, graphics, or associated field of study (or experience). Artistic, carpentry and landscaping skills desired. Good communications needed and able to work outdoors in a physically demanding role. These internships may require working some weekend days and holidays.

