

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo - Conservation Discovery Corps  
*AZA 'Top Honors' Education Award Winner*  
Some of the Benefits of the Program

**What You Will Learn**

- The ways zoos operate on a daily basis and through the inspection process.
- Public speaking and customer/visitor service and presentation skills.
- Leadership and autonomy skills, both in and out of the field.
- The science of maintaining animal collections.
- The policies of how zoos function and how they are evaluated.
- Collaboration and teamwork skills, in and out of the field.
- Some emergency response skills and training.
- Engaging ways to interact with the public and make connections with zoo visitors, volunteers and staff.
- ...And much more!

**What You Will Do**

- Engage with and educate zoo's visitors about the animals and the environment.
- Occasional conservation field work around Connecticut (transportation & supervision from the zoo for field work provided).
- Improve upon animal exhibits and enrichment.
- Go on a possible, optional overnight trip with fellow CDC members and zoo staff.
- Participate in and assist with fun zoo events.
- Help with various Education Department programming.
- Participate in outreach events and expos with staff to represent the zoo.
- Make new friends with other teens that share your interests!



 [facebook.com/ConservationDiscoveryCorpsAtBeardsleyZoo](https://www.facebook.com/ConservationDiscoveryCorpsAtBeardsleyZoo)

 <http://bit.ly/2kKurKY>

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Commitment Considerations - What to Expect



• **On Grounds (At the Zoo)**

- To communicate with CDC staff completely regarding absences, health issues, inappropriate behavior, or any concerns about CDC or Zoo guidelines.
- To work professionally with zoo staff & visitors.
- To Dress appropriately and professionally per guidelines, including proper footwear (see below) and wearing convertibles or having spare long pants with you every day, even in summer.
- To Stand in front of exhibits for extended periods of time, often in challenging weather (heat, humidity, light rain and wind).
- To understand & fully adhere to zoo policies & safety regulations.
- Must arrive on time for all scheduled work days & transitions between exhibits.
- Moderate physical labor at zoo conservation habitats, such as removal of invasive plants, and maintaining/installing bird houses.
- General, but light zoo maintenance.
- To attend to all training sessions. **Limit of 2 training day absences allowed with advanced notice and prior approval of CDC staff.**
- Passing grades for Final & Emergency Procedures exams. *No remakes will be allowed.*
- To complete a total of 15 CDC days (based on student scheduling) in Spring & Summer. Training days **DO NOT** count.

• **Off Grounds (On conservation projects in the field & trips)**

- To have appropriate basic supplies & attire (some of which the zoo will provide) for field work, for example: water resistant footwear, outerwear, protective head gear, and more (see above).
- Working on projects that are physically demanding (such as invasive plant removal, species surveys, deer fence repair, bird banding).
- Working in conditions that may be very challenging (heat, constant exposure to sun, mosquitos & insects, muddy and wet conditions). Students will sometimes be required to hike short distances as well.

**Please keep in mind that this program does not involve students playing with animals or directly conducting animal care.**

\*\*Though many CDC students have progressed through the program to learn animal handling and/or receive internships and even jobs at our zoo, they have proven themselves responsible members of this program first and have worked their way up to these specially trained privileges and job opportunities. The CDC program is a major step at getting dedicated students into the zoology, veterinary, and environmental science fields. Thusly it requires a large amount of time, effort, and commitment, much like sports.

**Only apply if you are certain you can meet all of these considerations.**