

So You Want to be a Zoo Keeper?



Find out **exactly** what it's like to look after wild animals with our new *So You Want to be a Zoo Keeper* workshops. Aimed at children and teenagers, these are short, half-day courses which introduce you to the world of the zoo keeper and show you how to make sure that our animals are well fed, interested and cared for.

You'll learn how to:

- ❖ Use tools like knives or secateurs to cut, slice and chop animal food (this may include fruit, vegetables, browse, some dead animals such as fish and perhaps even handle live food like mealworms or snails)
- ❖ Make food interesting for animals (enrichment)
- ❖ Recognise some of the risks and dangers of working with animals (basic health and safety, including washing hands, tools and surfaces, responsible behaviour around animals)
- ❖ Distribute a feed
- ❖ Approach animals with respect
- ❖ Design an animal enclosure (you'll think about the needs of the animal, the keeper who looks after it and the visitors who come to see it)
- ❖ You'll also get to see behind the scenes at Wildwood – the keeper kitchens, stores and service yard where all the hard work of looking after our animals is based.

These are just some of the activities that may be included in the workshop, but, as no zoo keeper's day is typical, then different activities may be substituted according to circumstances.

And don't forget to bring your camera – there will be lots of photographic opportunities.

Bookings for the *So You Want to be a Zoo Keeper* workshops are available on scheduled weekends during 2009 (February 21-22 and November 28-29) as well as Thursdays during the summer holidays (July 23 & 30, Aug 6, 13, 20 & 27). This workshop is very popular so please contact us (ring 01227 712111 or email anne@wildwoodtrust.org) to check availability before completing the booking form. If these weekends book up, we will consider putting on more dates.

Sessions will be run for up to five young people at a time, 7-11 year-olds in the morning, 10am-12noon, and 10-17 year-olds in the afternoon, 130-330pm. Summer sessions are for 7-11 yrs and 12-17 yrs on alternate weeks.

Please note: this is not a *Zoo Keeper for a Day* experience, which is only available to those over 18 years (see our *Zoo Keeper for a Day* bookings).

Parents/guardians must complete the booking form and sign the declaration to show that they understand and accept the activities planned. See *Conditions* (below) for other requirements.

How to book:

- Please use the *So You Want to be a Zoo Keeper* booking form below
- This includes a signed declaration by a parent/guardian that they are aware of the activities involved, agree that the young person is capable of undertaking them, will abide by Wildwood's health and safety regulations and follow his/her guide's instructions
- Bookings are only accepted once the completed booking form **with payment** has been received

Cost:

- £50, paid in advance (all day summer sessions for 12-17 years, £100)

What you get:

- The opportunity to discover what it is really like to be an animal keeper at Britain's 'best British wildlife park' (BBC); this workshop is run by Wildwood's education team, who are all police checked and first aid trained
- Presentation certificate

Cancellations:

- Full refund if you cancel up to a month in advance
- We regret no refund is possible if you cancel with less than a month's notice

Conditions:

- You must be between 7 and 17 years old
- You must have an up to date tetanus vaccination
- If you have special needs, you may be accompanied by a carer free of charge, if required
- Family members and friends may not accompany you
- Wear appropriate old clothes for a day in the woods – e.g. old jeans, jumper or sweatshirt, waterproof coat or jacket
- Wear appropriate footwear – old trainers or wellies
- Come prepared for the weather: bring sun block and a hat if very hot or warm clothes if cold; we work outdoors through all weathers, including driving rain, sleet and hail.
- Please note: Wildwood is a no smoking environment

Health and Safety regulations

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms which can be passed to humans and cause sickness, as well as the more obvious risks of bites, scratches, crushing and other injuries. Working in enclosures and the woodland also carries risks of injury and disease and there may be other park operations which present a hazard.

Anyone working at Wildwood may also come into contact with hay, straw, sawdust, nuts, fungi, pollen, animals of all kinds (e.g. we have adders, which are venomous snakes), other materials and tools during their activities. If you have any medical/behavioural conditions, disabilities and/or medication that we should be aware of which might be affected by these (e.g. hay fever, allergies, anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.), please tell us.

In addition, remember that our animals are wild and do not know you, so will not respond like family pets – we expect you to treat them with respect and give them space. Therefore it is essential that those participating in the *So You Want to be a Zoo Keeper* workshops follow closely the instructions they are given for the health and safety of themselves and others.

Before the day:

- Check your tetanus vaccination is up to date
- Tell us of any medical conditions, disabilities, allergies or conditions we should be aware of
- Cover existing cuts and bruises on exposed skin with waterproof dressings
- Make sure you have appropriate clothes and footwear

On the day:

1. Dress Sensibly

- Tie back long hair
- No jewellery other than ear studs
- No nail polish; remember, long nails are likely to break
- No perfume or aftershave
- No high-heeled shoes, ballet pumps or other inappropriate footwear
- No long dangly scarves, toggles or anything which might tempt an animal to pull them or might get caught up on branches/enclosures
- If you are inappropriately dressed on arrival, this is a health and safety matter and could affect the continuation of your workshop. In extreme cases, your place may need to be rescheduled or even cancelled if you cannot resolve the issue.

2. Follow Instructions

- Wash your hands at every opportunity, most especially on arrival and departure from Wildwood, between preparing different foods and before eating and drinking
- Do not put your fingers in your mouth unless you have washed them first
- Use the disposable gloves provided when instructed, especially when preparing whole animal carcasses for carnivores
- Do not eat any of the food intended for animals

- Stay with your guide; do not wander off
- Any accident or injury must be reported to your guide immediately so that appropriate action and first aid can be undertaken
- In an emergency, follow your guide's instructions. If you become separated, leave the park by the nearest emergency exit and make your way to the assembly point in the car park

3. Respect Animals

- There will be no animal contact during your day
- Do not attempt to touch, stroke or hug animals
- Do not put your face close to animals or try to kiss them

4. Inappropriate Behaviour

- If you are unable to agree to follow these conditions or behave inappropriately during your workshop, unfortunately your place will be terminated immediately
- In such circumstances, there will be no refund.



So You Want to be a Zoo Keeper Booking Form

Information about you *(this remains strictly confidential)*

Applicant's Name:

Age (must be 7-17 years):

If 7 years, date of birth:

Home Address:

Postcode:

Parent/Guardian's Telephone Nos: Daytime:
Mobile:

Email:

Date of applicant's last tetanus vaccination:

Are they physically fit? Yes/No *(please circle)*

Do they have any medical/behavioural conditions or disabilities we should be aware of?
Yes/No *(please circle)*

If yes, please give details in the space below:

Do they require a special needs carer to accompany them? Yes/No *(please circle)*

If yes, please give their name and contact details below:

Carer's Name:

Carer's daytime telephone no:

Are they taking medication? Yes/No *(please circle)*

If yes, please give details below:

Are they allergic to anything? Yes/No *(please circle)*

If yes, please give details below:

Do they have any specific interests that we might be able to help with?

EMERGENCIES: in an emergency on the day, whom should we contact?

Name: Relationship:

Daytime telephone no:

Mobile no:

Payment Details: *please note we no longer accept personal cheques*

Payment of £50/£100 for So You Want to be a Zoo Keeper workshop:

Please debit my	Visa <input type="checkbox"/>	Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/>	Solo/Maestro <input type="checkbox"/>
Card No:	Issue No:		<input type="checkbox"/>
3 digit security code:	Start Date:	Expiry date:	
Account holder's name (as it appears on card):			

Please complete the following information:

Fee Payer's Name:
Fee Payer's Address:
Postcode:
Fee Payer's Telephone Nos: Daytime:
Mobile:
Fee Payer's Email:
Fee Payer's Signature:

Date of event:	Morning/afternoon session:
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PARENT/GUARDIAN'S DECLARATION

*This **MUST** be signed by the parent/guardian of the young person who will be joining the So You Want to be a Zoo Keeper workshop.*

I agree that the applicant is capable of following instructions and handling tools as outlined. I have explained carefully to the applicant the conditions and health and safety regulations covering the Wildwood workshop and he/she has agreed to be bound by them *(please tick the boxes below to show you have understood these requirements in detail).*

- I agree to inform Wildwood of any relevant medical conditions in advance
- I agree to ensure the young person is dressed sensibly for the workshop
- I have explained the need to follow all instructions from the Wildwood guide
- I have explained the need to respect the animals
- The applicant has agreed to all conditions
- I understand that failure to do as asked could lead to the immediate termination of the applicant's day without a refund

Parent/Guardian's Signature:

Date:

Please tick this box if you don't wish to receive information about Wildwood Trust