

NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Jan. 16, 2014

VIRGINIA ZOO NEEDS YOU!

NORFOLK, Va. – The Virginia Zoo is now recruiting candidates for the docent volunteer program.

“Part teacher, interpreter and guide, docents play a key role as the Zoo’s voice with visitors,” said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo’s executive director. “We couldn’t function without them.”

Docents at the Zoo educate roughly 500,000 visitors annually, including more than 100,000 school children. Methods of interpretation include tours, live animal presentations, exhibit hosting, staffing bio-fact and discovery stations, greeting visitors, and conducting outreach programs throughout the community.

Prospective volunteers should enjoy speaking in public, and be interested in animals, the environment and conservation. No experience is necessary – all training is provided – just a six month commitment to the program is required. Docents must also be 18 years or older, and have a flexible schedule. Weekday volunteers are particularly in demand.

The next docent volunteer orientation will take place in the Zoo’s Administration Building Thursday, Jan. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. More information, including a volunteer application and docent job description, is available at: <http://virginiazoo.org/the-zoo-and-you/volunteer.asp> or by contacting Meg Puckett, volunteer coordinator, at (757) 441-2374, ext. 225.

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Jean Love, a docent at the Virginia Zoo, shows a bearded dragon to Zoo visitors Aug. 10, 2013 (Virginia Zoo photo by Meg Puckett).

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As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facility, the Virginia Zoo exhibits more than 400 animals on 53 beautifully landscaped acres. For more than a century, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to education and conservation, and offered a fun-filled day for visitors of any age. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located at 3500 Granby Street in Norfolk. Daily admission prices are \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors (age 62 and over) and \$9 for children ages 2-11. Children under 2 admitted free! Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.