

Santa Fe College Zoo Animal Technology Graduate Internship at White Oak

White Oak conserves and sustains some of the earth's rarest animal species through sustainable conservation breeding, education and responsible land stewardship. The AZA Certified conservation breeding center spans 700 acres along the St. Marys River in northeast Florida, surrounded by 17,000 acres of mixed forest and wetlands that make up the beautiful White Oak property. Founded in 1982, White Oak has a long-standing conservation legacy, leading efforts to improve veterinary care, develop holistic animal management techniques, and better understand the biology of critically endangered species. The facility uniquely manages populations in large, natural, stimulus-rich environments with natural social and breeding structures. It touts some of the largest ex-situ populations of cheetah, white rhino and okapi in the world, and actively participates in regional species recovery programs, regularly releasing animals back to the wild.



In August 1997, an animal husbandry internship was established for outstanding Santa Fe College (SF) Zoo Animal Technology (ZAT) graduates. The internship is designed to give graduates additional work experience with new and unique species. Selected graduates gain extensive hands-on experience in all aspects of captive conservation breeding programs, working in each of the carnivore, bird, rhino and ungulate teams. Graduates of the internship program regularly attain employment in professional zoo keeping positions at respected AZA institutions after completing the program. The internship, rewarding in many ways, includes a stipend and free housing.

Skills and Experience

- Husbandry- Diet preparation, feeding, shifting, behavioral observation, and habitat cleaning and maintenance
- Restraint techniques- Chemical immobilization, hydraulic chute and manual capture & restraint
- Assisting in Veterinary care, including necropsies
- Free-contact and protected-contact care/management
- Ungulate herd management including sorting/herding in large enclosures
- Class-1 animal care and associated safety protocols/procedures
- Breeding introductions and management
- Pre-parturition, parental care, neonatal management and hand-rearing
- Avian egg management and artificial incubation
- Internal and external animal transport
- Daily reporting
- Field conservation and recovery programs
- Research, scientific management basics and sample collection

Internship Specifics:

Up to two students from the graduating Santa Fe College ZAT class may be selected to work at White Oak (WO) for approximately eight months. Commitment to the selected schedule and individual work duties will be required. The internship period begins after ZAT graduation and will conclude when the next ZAT class graduates. White Oak will review all applications and select candidates for in-person interviews. Please see instructions on how to apply below.

The selected candidate will receive a \$1,466 monthly stipend, before taxes, and free housing at White Oak for the duration of the internship. Living on site is a requirement of the internship. Housing for family or pets is not available, but guests are allowed with prior approval. Interns will be scheduled to work 40 hours a week including weekends and holidays, and will be asked to help with after-hours duties such as neonate bottle feedings. There will be no guarantee of employment at the end of the internship and in order to avoid conflicts, the selected candidate will not be eligible for job openings at White Oak that occur during the internship. White Oak respects and understands the necessity for candidates to job search during the internship, but interns are expected to complete the eight-month program before beginning employment elsewhere.



Eligibility Requirements:

- Candidates must be recent graduates from the Santa Fe College Zoo Animal Technology Program and be 18 years old and over.
- Candidates must pass a drug test upon starting the internship, have proof of a valid driver's license and proof of valid health insurance.
- Candidates must be legally able to work in the United States (US Citizen, Permanent Resident, or hold an Employment Authorization Document)
- Candidates should be self-motivated, able to work well alone and with others, and willing to learn new skills and make the most of the internship experience.
- Commitment to a 40 hour work week, the selected schedule and individual work duties is required.
- Candidates must be able to lift 50 lbs. without difficulty, work in adverse weather conditions, and remain on their feet for long periods of time.

How to Apply:

Submit ONE DOCUMENT as an email attachment to training@white-oak.org with the subject line 'Santa Fe Internship Application'. Please include a resume/CV and cover letter, detailing why you would like to participate in this internship and how it will help you reach your career goals. Only electronic submissions will be considered (.doc, .docx, and .pdf format only). If you are interested in this internship, please reach out to your Santa Fe professors for more information or email training@white-oak.org.