



# Zoo Career Explorers

## CT's Beardsley Zoo Career Explorers

For students 14 – 18 years old who want to learn more about the diverse and rewarding careers available in Zoo's.

Beardsley Zoo's Career Explorer is a year long program, meeting on Saturdays once a month (usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday), from 9:30 –12:00. Teens participate in career workshops and staff shadow days, develop public presentations and create a year-end project. The career workshops will cover 8 departments at the Zoo: animal care, education, administration, horticulture, marketing & development, maintenance, visitor services and vet care. The format of the workshops is: a staff member from the dept we are learning about will speak about their job and answer questions, then we will participate in an activity that would normally be done by that department (hand out marketing material to zoo guests, make food for the animals, paper-pick the picnic area, work in the greenhouse etc.), then we will complete a mini-project based on that career. For the mini-projects each Explorer will choose one animal that will remain their theme for all projects during the career workshops. Some of the projects include exhibit design, creating a zoo diet, developing a training strategy, marketing the arrival of a new Zoo animal, purchasing gift shop stock etc. Career Workshops run January through August. In September the first presentation is due. This is based on the mini projects completed throughout the career workshops. Explorers will present information on their animal covering the proper care, housing, husbandry, marketing etc in the zoo setting. These presentations will be made in front of parents, siblings, and any staff members. In October and November Explorers will have a chance to do a half day shadow with a staff member in any of the departments covered during the year. At the December meeting, Explorers will present information on one career they learned about during the year. Again, parents, siblings and staff will be invited.

This program runs from January through December meeting on Saturdays once a month (usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday), from 9:30 –12:00.

Cost is \$120

Registration is open and closes March 31<sup>st</sup>