

2012 Spring and Summer Intern Positions

Available at Possumwood Acres Wildlife Sanctuary

Located in Hubert, NC (Onslow County).

Overview: Applications are being accepted for students interested in volunteering at a wildlife sanctuary in coastal North Carolina. Interns will receive intense rehabilitation training that focuses on native species of wildlife. This includes small mammals as well as a wide variety of birds (songbirds, raptors, waterfowl, sea birds, shore birds). With this training the intern will be able to participate in actual patient care and practice hands-on wildlife rehabilitation skills. Upon completion of the internship, the student will receive a certificate documenting the skills learned and the hours of service performed. *No monetary compensation or housing is provided with the intern positions.*

Training Benefits: Experience will be invaluable for students planning on attending colleges or universities in the following fields: Veterinary Medicine, Biology, Zoology, Veterinary Technician, Wildlife Management, Environmental Sciences, Small Animal Management, and Wildlife Rehabilitation.

This experience will allow interns to find entry level employment opportunities in wildlife sanctuaries, nature centers, zoos, and wildlife centers. They will learn the basics of public relations through dealings with those who find animals and bring them in for treatment. They will be able to answer wildlife related questions and assist county residents by providing information and directing them to other relevant resources. They will be able to take advantage of networking opportunities that may prove beneficial in the future in their chosen fields. And finally, they earn Community Service Hours by volunteering at a non-profit organization.

Requirements: The intern will be working with wounded animals and their by-products (feces, urine, blood) and must provide proof of having a current Tetanus Booster (within the past 5 yrs.), and should not be auto-immune system compromised or pregnant. Other certain medical conditions may require a note of clearance from their physician before being allowed to work with any animals directly.

Program Specifics: Interns will be expected to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. The sanctuary is open 7 days a week, from 8 AM to 8 PM. Schedules will include shifts on weekdays and weekends. Program length may vary depending upon the intern's availability, but a minimum of 6 weeks is required in order to receive a Certificate of Completion.

The work to be performed will focus on caring for admitted animal patients as well as caring for the outside resident (non-releasable) education animals and birds.

Rehabilitation: perform hands-on animal care inside the Animal Room. This includes feeding, watering, tubing, weighing, assisting with wound care, bandaging, splinting, administering medications, fluid therapy, and orphan care. Proper husbandry will be maintained while cleaning and changing cages, as well as demonstrating proper safety precautions at all times while handling wildlife.

Education: assist in wildlife presentations and programs, and help conduct group tours of the sanctuary.

Education Animal Care: learn to work with the non-releasable animals and birds used in programs and presentations, and participate in the manning process for the raptors.

Applications: may be emailed to PossumwoodAcres@ec.rr.com or mailed to 119 Doe Drive, Hubert, NC 28539.

For more details, look on the webpage at www.possumwoodacres.org or call 910-326-6432 and ask for the Director, Toni O'Neil.