



Dr. Jeff Thomas Internship Job Description

Job Title: Jeff Thomas Intern

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants MUST agree with one of the following statements.

- My household income falls below the Federal Poverty Level.
- I am eligible for Federal Pell Grants.
- I participate in or qualify for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- I am a first-generation college student.

Work Location: This position is located at the Carolina Raptor Center Hospital building, located at 6000 Sample Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078. It requires reliable transportation to commute.

Purpose of Position: This position is a specialized work-experience internship that prioritizes access and opportunities for diverse populations. Interns are empowered to build their skills under leading experts in Avian Conservation. Interns also identify, develop, and complete a unique project which is presented at the conclusion of their internship.

- Get a comprehensive introduction to bird of prey husbandry and rehabilitation
- Train under both Resident Bird Care staff and Rehabilitation staff
- Learn techniques which utilize the most up-to-date practices in avian welfare
- Build confidence and familiarity of the avian care industry through hands-on experiences
- Identify a unique project and present at the end of the internship

Responsibilities and Duties:

- Assist with the care of injured and orphaned raptors
- Learn safe handling and restraint of patients while treatments are performed
- Learn to perform an examination on an injured raptor
- Administer medications and fluids
- Take calls from the public and dispatch volunteers to pick up injured birds
- Prep ambassador bird diets, diet distribution, maintain food preparation areas and equipment
- Maintain animal enclosures by regularly cleaning and changing water
- Observe and record bird behavior
- Maintain records of animal observations regarding behavior, food intake, leftovers, medical treatments, etc.
- Assist with creating, distributing, and recording of behavior-based enrichment

Qualifications:

- At least 18 years old
- Ability to lift 50 pounds
- Able to work outside in all weather conditions and temperatures
- Applicants must have work availability for the entire 11-week period and able to commit 40 hours a week during that time
- Have strong oral and written communication skills and be able to work effectively with others



Commitment Expectations:

- Full-time 11-week internship
- Tuesday-Saturday schedule
- \$5,000 stipend

Training: New interns will receive general volunteer onboarding training with our Volunteer Manager, including a scavenger hunt and on-site onboarding training. In addition, there will be specific training on the day of onboarding where you will learn the following skills:

- Using a scale
- Introduction to the computer program, RaptorMed
- Bird behavior

Additional hands-on training will begin on your first day and continue throughout your first two weeks. Throughout the internship, you will also be provided with the following classes:

- Anatomy of Raptors
- Common Injuries and Signs of Illness
- Health Examinations and Beak Coping
- Foot and Beak Care
- Basics of Bird Behavior
- Raptor Training Techniques

Other Requirements: You will need to pass a background check before starting, provided through Priority Background Information Solutions. A tetanus shot is highly recommended. Ability to work with or around sick and injured birds, potentially hazardous materials, cleaning chemicals, gas anesthetics, zoonotic diseases, and unpleasant odors. If you are immunocompromised or pregnant/planning to become pregnant, you should obtain medical clearance from your physician.