Education and Public Engagement Placement Opportunity 2027-2028

Organisation's Contact Details:

Dartmoor Zoological Society
Sparkwell, Plymouth, PL7 5DG
01752 837645
www.dartmoorzoo.org.uk

Name and Job Title of Main Contact:

Jo Clark – Head of Education and Research

Organisation's main activity:

Hidden on the borders of the Dartmoor National Park, Dartmoor Zoo boasts a wonderful 33 acres of woodland, celebrating a wide range of exotic and native animals, including the biggest variety of Big Cats in the Southwest of England. Dartmoor Zoological Society is a charity which aims to promote the conservation, care and breeding of wildlife and endangered species. We encourage and develop the public interest and awareness of the importance of ensuring the survival of species and diversity of life.

We achieve this through operating the zoo in a unique way. Not only do we educate public visitors through talks and educational literature, but we have an extensive education programme for schools, colleges and placements for children ranging from pre-school age through to university undergraduates. We are continuously undertaking research onsite to improve our animal welfare, whilst also sharing this knowledge with other animal charities and organisations around the country.

We promote the charity through our social media channels, of which we have over 100,000 followers. We also host a range of events from fundraising days to corporate away days and weddings.

Brief Job Description – duties and responsibilities:

Dartmoor Zoo is seeking placement students for the role of Voluntary Engagement Assistant for the 2027-2028 academic year.

To learn the importance of formal and informal education in a zoo and assist the Education Officers in developing and delivering the zoos engagement activities. You will gain experience within an award winning BIAZA accredited zoo education department, receiving regular training and tutorials from professional zoo staff.

This will include, but not be limited to, the following tasks:

- Learning and presenting public talks
- Assisting in the management of the volunteer team.
- After sufficient training, running the volunteer team.
- Help to produce education resources using a range of media.
- Opportunities to assist the department in all areas of zoo education including taught school sessions and outreach, use of education animals and assist with the running of the zoo's conservation academy which includes our popular programmes Rangers and Rangers Academy.
- Leading activities around the zoo.
- Helping to design public programmes.
- Assisting with aspects of zoo research

The perfect fit:

- Someone with a keen interest in conservation education
- Some confidence in public speaking.
- Good communication skills.
- Flexibility and adaptability- this is a diverse role!
- Someone who is kind, patient and a team player.
- Willingness to work some weekends and evenings.
- Willingness to work through bank holidays and school holidays.

Salary / Remuneration – Living / Travel allowance:

Reimbursement for work expenses only. Volunteers are provided with uniform (polo tops and fleece) and a package of benefits including 40% discount on our catering provision.

How many placement slots are available: 1

Length of placements available: 6 – 12 months depending on course requirements.

Start Date: September 2027 onwards.

Application Procedure:

Please submit a CV and covering letter to joanna.clark@dartmoorzoo.co.uk

Closing Date for applications:

6th December 2026

Proposed interview date:

Week beginning 4th January 2027 (in-person or online available)