



ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO



2026 DOCENT APPLICATION

Name:			Birthdate:			Age:		
Address:								
City:				ST:		ZIP:		
Home phone:				Cell phone:				
Email:						T-shirt size:		

Occupation (current or former):			
Employer:			
Address:			
City:		ST:	ZIP:
Phone:			

Educational Background (Indicate highest level completed and area of major study):

- ☐ Elementary ☐ High School ☐ College ☐ Graduate School
☐ Other: _____ Area of Study: _____
☐ I am in school now Name of school: _____

What day(s) would you be interested in volunteering at the Zoo?

- ☐ Weekend List days: _____
☐ Weekday List days: _____

How did you hear about the Docent Training Program?

Do you have any limitations or allergies that might prevent you from walking around the Zoo or participating in any docent activities? Please explain.

Have you ever done volunteer work with Turtle Back Zoo or any other organization? Please explain. Include your length of service and level of involvement.

Do you have any special training, skills, interests or hobbies? If so, please indicate them below:

Do you speak any foreign language(s)? (Please specify) _____

When was the last time you visited Turtle Back Zoo and what were your impressions?

Do you understand that although you will be working in an animal-oriented atmosphere, MOST of your work will be dealing with people - many of them children? ☐ Yes ☐ No

It may be necessary to work in inclement weather. Would this cause a problem for you?

☐ Yes ☐ No

It may be necessary to correct inappropriate behavior by the public. Would this cause a problem for you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Being a docent requires you to:

- be at least 18 years old
- **complete an interview held on Saturday, Jan. 17 (snow date Sunday, Jan. 18)**
- **complete an 8-day specialized training course held on Sundays: Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 and March 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 12:00 noon to 5:00pm (snow date Sunday, March 29)**
- pay a one-time fee of \$35 to cover training materials*
- commit to volunteer a designated number of hours/events. Hours are gained from attending a Set Day (i.e., 1st and 3rd or 2nd and 4th Saturdays) each month throughout the year. Docents are also expected to staff special events, such as Safe Howl-o-ween and Brew at the Zoo, as they occur throughout the year.
- wear the docent uniform when working with the public (blue docent shirt & khaki pants or blue jeans and appropriate footwear)
- be a good representative and guide/educator to the visiting public

Do you foresee any problems fulfilling any of these mandatory requirements?

Please explain.

*Please note that there is a one-time training course fee to offset cost of materials (\$35.00). If you send a check, please make it out to **Essex County Parks Foundation** and on the memo line put **Docent Class**.

- **Please return, with payment, by January 9, to: Volunteer Coordinator, Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, 560 Northfield Ave., West Orange, NJ 07052 OR email the application to tbzdocents@parks.essexcountynj.org.**
- **Please be sure to complete the County Criminal Background Check which can be found here: https://v2-trionaid.screenmenow.com/v2/home?c=SLTR_00395**
- When your application is received you will be contacted to set up an interview.

*****THIS FEE IS NONREFUNDABLE*****

Any questions: please email tbzdocents@parks.essexcountynj.org.