



## INTERNSHIP FAQ'S

### **What Is A CGA Internship?**

The Center for Great Apes intern program is a 12-week volunteer opportunity where interns have the opportunity to work in the vicinity of great apes and are exposed to various aspects of great ape care-giving. The intern program is on-going and applications and interns are accepted year round. We receive many inquiries about our intern program and cannot accept all intern applicants. Therefore, many people interested in interning may be put on a waitlist which could extend up to one year.

### **How Do CGA Interns Help?**

Intern volunteers at the Center play a vital part in helping accomplish our mission of providing permanent and enriching care for great apes that are unable to live in the wild, or to be cared for by accredited zoos. Some of our apes come from "pet" backgrounds, some from entertainment (movies and circuses), and others from tiny roadside attractions. The Center also provides a home to several handicapped apes who require special housing and care.

### **What Qualifications Do I Need To Become An Intern?**

All intern volunteers must be at least 21 years of age. Resident interns participate for a minimum of three months. Interns should be in good health and be able to work outside in the heat, humidity, and weather for several hours at a time. Applicants for the intern program must be willing to work hard, follow instructions, get along well with people, and be able to lift 50 lbs. Interns work five 8-hour days with two days off during the week. Days off are usually not on weekends and may change during the internship according to sanctuary events and staff schedules. Besides having a sincere interest in the welfare and care of captive great apes, volunteers and interns must (1) be current members of the Center for Great Apes, (2) have a recent (within one year) negative TB test, (3) have a current Tetanus shot, and (4) sign a liability release agreement. While proof of health insurance is not required, it is recommended that all interns have current/active insurance during their entire stay. Upon arrival, interns will sign the required release forms, show proof of a current TB test with a negative result, and complete the safety training.

### **What Volunteer Job Duties Will I Be Doing?**

During an internship, interns participate in the following staff duties: cleaning of indoor and outdoor enclosures, making enrichment devices and toys, assisting with ape laundry, helping prepare ape diets, observing behaviors of the apes, cutting browse & vegetation for nesting...and on occasion, giving tours to visitors, helping with office work, and gardening. Due to insurance restrictions, interns and volunteers do not move ape doors, shift apes, open locks, feed the apes, train for behaviors, or medicate the apes. It should also be noted that volunteers and interns do

not have physical interaction with the orangutans and chimpanzees and are not allowed to touch the apes at any time.

### **Where is the Center for Great Apes?**

The Center is located in the middle of the countryside in a very rural area of central Florida. The nearest towns with shopping facilities are 10 miles away. Interns without autos can usually catch rides into town for supplies with staff members once or twice a week. During the summer months (June to September), it is the rainy season and very hot. Insect repellent is a must during this time. However, during the winter and spring (December to May), the weather is lovely, and there are very few mosquitoes during this time. Our sanctuary is located on 100-acres of semi-tropical forest and orange groves. We have many species of native wildlife, including insects and spiders, reptiles, and you're likely to spot foxes, barred owls, red-shouldered hawks, indigo snakes, raccoons, pileated woodpeckers, armadillos, gopher tortoises, and occasionally a river otter in our creek.

### **May I Stay At The Sanctuary During My Internship?**

There is intern housing available on grounds which is a shared house with dorm-style shared bedrooms in comfortable living quarters. There is *no smoking* in any housing or on grounds... and no drugs are allowed on the property. Pets of any type are not allowed in the intern housing. The charge for intern housing (which includes rent, laundry use, kitchen use, and utilities, but not food or incidentals) is currently \$100 a week (or \$14.28 a day). This may either be paid all at once at the beginning of the internship, or a month in advance for each month interns are here.

### **Is There a Fee to Intern?**

There is no fee for interning, only for housing at the Center. If you prefer to live off-grounds, there would be no cost from CGA (except for your membership donation). Our office can give you a list of hotels in the area.

### **How Do I Apply For An Internship At CGA?**

If you wish to apply for an internship, please send the application and video link, a current resume/vitae, dates available (3 consecutive months minimum), copy of a valid Driver's license or photo ID card, and at least three references via mail, fax, or email to the address listed below. Be sure to include in your resume or cover letter if you have had previous experience volunteering, and any experience working with any type of animals.

### **When Will I Find Out If I Have Been Accepted For An Internship?**

Please allow us at least four weeks to review your application once it has been received. If you meet the qualifications for our program, we will contact you to arrange an interview (via in-person, phone, or Skype) and will inform you of internship availabilities.

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