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## Interested in Zookeeping?

If you have ever wanted to help out at the Sequoia Park Zoo, here is your chance. This year-round program offers you the opportunity to take care of the Barnyard animals. There are also opportunities for becoming an advanced helper through the program's merit badge system. This program often has a waiting list and we accept the majority of new participants during the summer season. Sometimes, however, we have openings during the school year, too. **If you are Interested in participating, please call ASAP to get your name on the list.**

### General requirements

You must:

- Be 11-15 years old
- Have a passion for working with domestic animals in the Barnyard
- Commit to at least 1-shift every other week. Summer shifts are Tuesday through Sunday, 10am-1pm. Winter shifts are on weekends and holidays, 10am-1pm.
- Be able to follow directions with a positive attitude
- Pay the program fee (\$40 per year), partial scholarships are available, and
- Be able to work in a team environment, as well as independently while under adult supervision.

3414 "W" St.  
Eureka CA 95503

Sequoia Park Zoo

SEQUOIA PARK  
**ZOO**

## YOUTH ANIMAL KEEPING PROGRAM



*For information, contact:*

*Sequoia Park Zoo  
3414 "W" St.  
Eureka CA, 95503*

*(707) 441-4263*

# So You're Interested in Zookeeping...

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## WHY A Y.A.K?



A Yak is an animal that is found in Tibet. Domesticated Yaks came from the wild Yak, which is now endangered due to over-hunting.

Tibetans depend on domesticated Yaks for milk, fiber, labor and fuel. Yes, even their dung is used to build a fire on which they cook. Because Yaks are essential to Tibetan survival, they are revered with the upmost respect.

Like the Yak is to Tibetans, Youth Assistant Keepers (Y.A.K.s) are essential to Sequoia Park Zoo. Y.A.K.s work alongside the Barnyard Zookeeper to take care of the animals. Activities include grooming, feeding, cleaning, providing enrichment and much, much more!

## HOW DO I START?

To become one of the Y.A.K. Team, follow these easy steps!

1. Read this brochure. If you are still interested, call the Zoo ticket booth and have your name put on the waiting list. Most new participants start in the summer, but if we have an opening, we will give you a call.
2. Wait for the phone call to meet the program coordinator.
3. If you and the program coordinator feel the program is a good fit, you will be given an application.
4. Return your application with the annual \$40 registration fee to the Zoo ticket booth.
5. Wait for our Zoo staff to call you.

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## WHAT IS THE TRAINING LIKE?

Volunteering at the zoo requires very specific training. This is because of all the special safety issues with working around animals. During your training you will meet the program staff, learn the routine and find out about the merit pin program.

## HOW WILL THE Y.A.K. PROGRAM BENEFIT ME?

Being a part of the Y.A.K. team will provide you with many benefits. You will:

- learn about domestic animal caretaking
- gain valuable experience you can add to your resume
- work alongside a professional Barnyard zookeeper in a team-centered environment, and
- learn how to work with the public



## TO MAKE YOU ONE OF THE CREW!!!

Uniform vests and name tags will be provided for use during your work shift.