



INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

The Turtle Conservancy offers an internship program for students interested in gaining a real hands-on conservation experience over the summer. Interns spend time completing independent projects by working at the TC's Conservation Center.

Important Information:

**Duration:**

3 month commitment

**Location**

Ojai, California

**Departments**

Animal Husbandry and Research

**Application Due Date**

March 15, 2024

ABOUT THE TC

The Turtle Conservancy is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the most endangered turtles and tortoises and their habitats worldwide. Established in 2005, the TC's Conservation Center is an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institution housing over 500 chelonians representing more than 40 species.



REQUIREMENTS

- Interns must be 18 years or older.
- Must have taken a biology related course.
- Have a strong work ethic and love for the outdoors including tolerance to bugs, heat, snakes, lizards, rodents, cactus, and full days.
- Housing and transportation to and from the TC.
- Can lift at least 50 pounds.



Turtle Conservancy Internship Application

The Turtle Conservancy offers an internship program for students interested in gaining real conservation experience over the summer. Interns spend time completing independent projects and working at the TC's Conservation Center.

About the Turtle Conservancy: The Turtle Conservancy is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting the most endangered turtles and tortoises and their habitats worldwide. Established in 2005, the TC's Conservation Center is an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institution housing over 500 chelonians representing more than 30 taxa.

Internship Description: Interns are an integral part of the TC's team. They receive the opportunity to develop professional skills and talents in a conservation-oriented zoological setting. Interns work with TC staff and scientists on projects tailored to fit their interests while helping fulfill the TC's mission of protecting the planet's most vulnerable turtles and tortoises.

Requirements:

1. Interns must be 18 years and older and have taken a biology related course.
2. A strong work ethic and love of the outdoors including tolerance to bugs, heat, snakes, lizards, rodents, cactus, and long days.
3. Transportation to and from the TC.
4. Clothing to work in hot/humid indoor environments and varying outdoor weather conditions.
5. Can lift 50 pounds.



Opportunities:

1. **Animal Care & Husbandry** - Learn proper chelonian handling techniques including cleaning and general maintenance of turtle and tortoise enclosures, preparing diets and distributing feed, making behavioral observations, landscaping, maintaining husbandry and health records, and methods of breeding, incubation, and disease transmission. Interns may also be trained to give tours of our center as a form of education outreach.
2. **Scientific Collections Management** - Assist in the conservation of thousands of natural history specimens. Help us organize and digitize our collection of preserved turtles through 2D and 3D imaging techniques. Tell us about your interests and we can design a project where you can develop your skills and make a valuable contribution to museum-based research.
3. **Field Research** - Join the Southwestern Pond Turtle field research team for surveys of Southern California's only native turtle species. Learn how biologists study wild turtle populations and monitor their health. Surveys require working in the wilderness all day and getting waist-deep in wetlands and streams. Occasionally you will need to carry equipment for up to 5 kilometers.

Note: All interns will be assigned a capstone project that pertains to their internship and will be expected to present their research at the end of the internship.

Accommodation and Transportation: The TC has limited housing, so interns are encouraged to find their own housing if they live outside of driving distances, unless a housing option has been offered. Briefly state your plan for transportation & accommodation during your proposed internship.

References: Please provide contact information for two references (e.g., professors, employers, or supervisors) who can speak to your qualifications and character:

Reference #1 Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Relationship to Intern: _____

Reference #2 Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Relationship to Intern: _____

Reference #3 Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ Relationship to Intern: _____

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone #: _____

Relationship to Intern: _____

Please attach a cover letter on the back of this form sharing why you are interested in applying for this internship, what your qualifications are, and what you hope to learn, focus on, and accomplish.