

# Junior Curator Program Changes

The Junior Curator program has been in its current form for some 20 years. It has, over the years, given young people an opportunity to be involved in education, in working with animals, and in getting a glimpse of both the joys and challenges of the museum and zoo profession. However, the opening of our Animal Discovery Park, along with AZA accreditation and our significantly raised operational standards, has exposed flaws in the current program which must be corrected for the Junior Curator program to continue to thrive. While the program has been primarily positive, there have been too many incidents of concern with regard to interaction with visitors, and welfare of our animals.

We do not undertake this change lightly. These changes are the result of considerable discussion among NSC staff, as well as consultation with other animal organizations. We try very hard to balance our obligation to provide this rewarding experience to area youth, with our obligations to both our visitors and to the animals under our care. Please note that this is not intended to eliminate opportunities for special needs students; some of our special needs Jr. Curators have done well. Parents with questions in this regard might wish to discuss their situation with us before applying.

**1. Admission To The Program.** Admission to the program has long been on the basis of “first come, first served,” and parents waited in long lines to register early enough to secure a spot. This year we will require that prospective Junior Curators apply for admission to the program. The application process will involve a brief questionnaire (exceptions can be made here for special circumstances), and an interview with Science Center staff.

**2. Becoming Docents.** Junior Curators will no longer be able to fold into the Docent Program at the conclusion of their Jr. Curator summer unless they are of age to do so. Docents simply do not receive the same level of close supervision afforded to Jr. Curators, and 15 yr. is the minimum age at which we are comfortable giving young people that responsibility. Most accredited zoos have a minimum age of at least 16 yr. Junior Curators will also be required to complete the full Docent Training course.

We appreciate your understanding.

The application is located on the following page. **Applications must be completed and returned by March 29, and interviews will be held on April 6 and April 8.** Thank you.

# The Natural Science Center of Greensboro

## Application for Junior Curator

### Parent Information:

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent email address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Legibly)

### Please circle the interview date you prefer:

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 or Thursday, April 8, 2010  
6:00-8:00 PM 6:00-8:00 PM

### Student Applicant Information:

(Must be 13 years old by June 15)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Last) (Month/Day/Year)  
email address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print Legibly)

Are you a member of the Natural Science Center?  Yes  No

### Applicable Experience:

(Example: Experience with animals, classes taken at the Natural Science Center, volunteer work)

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Mail completed application to: The Natural Science Center of Greensboro, Attn: Terri Cooke  
4301 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC 27455 or fax to (336) 288-2531 by March 29, 2010.