



LIVING NORTHWEST: SEATTLE URBAN CARNIVORE PROJECT

Volunteer Assignment Description

Position:

Be a part of the zoo's growing conservation initiatives – join the Seattle Urban Carnivore Project's (SUCP) camera team! This assignment is ideal for those with an interest in conducting field work off zoo grounds to help research how carnivores (such as coyotes, bear and bobcats) are using the urban landscape. Moreover, if you are a current zoo ambassador, this opportunity counts toward your service time!

The SUCP, led by Woodland Park Zoo and Seattle University, uses remote cameras to monitor the carnivores that live in and use parks across the central King County area. The project includes approximately 40 locations along two transects (a north transect running from Discovery Park out towards Duvall and a south transect running along the Duwamish River and then east out towards Maple Valley) plus additional off-transect locations. The cameras at about half of these locations are managed by volunteer teams. If you are interested in participating in a conservation project off zoo grounds and can commit to roughly five hours a month over the camera trapping season (April 2022 – March 2023) then this is a good fit for you!

Supervisor: Volunteer Engagement Staff (specific volunteer assignments overseen by Katie Remine, Wildlife Conservation Division)

Activities: There are two roles that can be filled for the SUCP, team members and team leaders.

Team members:

- Participate on a camera trapping team
- Set up and/or check on camera stations in one location/park using the approved protocol; checks occur once per month at the end/start of each month
- Keep loaned equipment in good working order
- Adhere to all protocols contained within the SUCP Volunteer Protocol, including the Photo Sharing Policy
- One team member will enter data into online forms and organize and upload photos to submit them to project staff after each month's monitoring session
- Act as an ambassador for the project and for Woodland Park Zoo while engaging in monitoring activities

Team leaders:

Team leaders are responsible for all activities listed above in addition to:

- Ensure that their team completes the above project activities each month
- Be the liaison between the project supervisors and their team members
- Communicate with team members to plan monthly camera visits and keep team informed of project updates; cultivate community among team members through regular communications
- Involve each team member in all aspects of the protocol to help them learn a variety of field skills; ensure that all team members follow protocols as described in the Volunteer Guide
- Should any injuries occur during monitoring, team leaders will submit an injury report to the project supervisors (seattlecarnivores@zoo.org)
- Conduct a thorough inventory of equipment at the end of each camera check and before turning kits in at the end of the season
- Inform the project supervisors (seattlecarnivores@zoo.org) of any missing or damaged equipment

Qualifications:Team members:

- Basic computer skills, including knowledge of how to upload photos from an SD memory card onto a computer (some training will be provided)
- Ability to transport yourself or coordinate transportation to and from camera trapping sites
- The ability to hike up to one mile to check camera traps
- Be reliable, dependable and have good follow through
- If under 14 years of age, be accompanied at all times by a parent or guardian (who must also be a trained project volunteer)

Team leaders:

All qualifications listed above in addition to:

- Ability to organize and communicate with team members
- Comfortable contacting team members to ensure deadlines are met
- Take initiative to ask clarifying questions
- Be 16 years of age or older

Team requirements:

In order to ensure the highest level of safety for our project volunteers, the following requirements apply to all teams:

- Minimum of one adult (age 18+) per team is required
- Each team must consist of three to five people (including one team leader)
- A minimum of three team members (including the team leader or a designated substitute) must be present on each monitoring visit

Commitment:

Participate in mandatory trainings (see below). Participate in camera station set up and monthly remote camera checks totaling from one to three hours a month over the camera trapping season (April 2022–March 2023). Team members and leaders are responsible for transporting themselves to remote camera locations in the greater Seattle area. Maintain open communication with project supervisors regarding equipment and data. If a volunteer cannot uphold and maintain this commitment, the project supervisors may end the volunteer assignment at any time without notice.

Training:

All necessary training will be provided for this volunteer assignment by the SUCP project coordinators. Team members and leaders will:

- **Saturday, March 12 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.** - Participate in a mandatory 2-hour project training (presented virtually by project staff)
- Thoroughly review associated training videos and documents (2 hours of time)
- Receive other on-the-job training specific to the task or project as needed

Working Conditions:

Activities are completed at outdoor locations, so team members and leaders must have the ability to work in all weather conditions and hike up to one mile to camera sites on uneven terrain. Data entry requires being on a computer (may be a home computer or laptop) for one or more hours at a time.

Special Notes:

Placement onto a SUCP camera team for a subsequent season is contingent on the successful completion of one season and mandatory training(s). This ensures that both volunteers and project supervisors have adequate time to determine whether or not the volunteer-project match is a good fit.

- Zoo Ambassadors who participate in this project will receive service credit for all volunteer time!
- **There are limited openings for this assignment, and interested individuals may need to go through an interview process.**

Contact:

If you have any questions about this special project, please email seattlecarnivores@zoo.org