

## What is Nature Reach?

Working out of PSU's Biology Department since 1985, we have a commitment to providing natural history and environmental education outreach programming to school and community groups.

The Mission of PSU's Nature Reach Program is to provide quality environmental education for all while fostering an appreciation for and connection to animals and our natural world.

You won't find a similar organization in this region that can do what we do. We go directly to classrooms with live animals, we provide summer programming, we help teachers become better educators, and we provide valuable, real-world training to college students who want to go into careers from veterinary medicine to wildlife management.

## How do PSU students fit into the program?

Student keepers are primarily for the daily care (feeding and cleaning) of every single one of ~~our~~ approximately fifty ambassador animals. While some experience with animals is helpful, all that is really needed is a desire to learn. We provide all training and safety gear. Keepers may also assist in special projects—everything from a bit of basic carpentry to exhibit design. Nature Reach has a professional staff of one, so students are absolutely critical to the daily and overall success of the program. There are three Keeper Positions, with some students filling multiple positions.

1. **Nature Reach Keeper**—Cares for mammals, herps, and invertebrates housed on campus (328/329 HW)
2. **Raptor Keeper**—Cares for birds of prey housed off campus, approximately 15 minutes from campus.
3. **Snake Keeper**—Cares specifically for snakes housed on campus (328/329 HW)

## What does it take?

- Can you handle blood, poop, guts, bugs, worms, etc. or at least willing to work on getting over a fear of those?
- Can you work outdoors in a variety of temperatures?
- Can you show up when you say you will? Animals need to be fed 365 days a year without exception!
- Can you work with and communicate well with others?
- Can you follow directions?
- Potentially be able to drive yourself to and from our off-campus location (12 miles RT)
- Must have an up-to-date tetanus vaccine
- Cell phone with Google Calendar App

## What's in it for me?

- Pay (Student worker rate) or volunteer hours and biology elective credit
- Hands-on experience with a wide variety of animals
- Valuable life skills and on-the-job-training
- Introduction to captive animal behavior
- Experience in animal diet preparation

- Opportunity to apply for PAID Summer Internship
- Opportunities to hear from professionals in wildlife and veterinary science
- Opportunities to assist with public outreach programming
- First opportunity to join Natural History Interpretation (course offered odd Springs)
- Much more!

## What is the time commitment?

*Beginning (self-study, takes 1-4 weeks to complete)*

- Online course/program onboarding
- One-on-One training

*Weekly Requirement/Semester Requirements*

- Minimum 1 morning per week and a few weekend mornings each semester (plan 2-3 hours, sometimes more during training)
- Weekly meeting (usually held at the beginning of class each semester, even if you have completed all coursework).
- Academic Work
  - Fall Semester: 3 credit course (BIOL 202-02), likely Tuesdays 8-10am
  - Spring Semester: 1 credit course (BIOL 202-02, likely Thursdays 9am-10am
  - Summer: No credits offered, but there are both paid and volunteer positions
- Many students stay beyond two semesters. You do have the option to earn additional credits through special topics.

## For More Information & Student Application:

Find the application at [www.pittstate.edu/naturereach](http://www.pittstate.edu/naturereach) (Scroll to near bottom of page and click on application)

E-mail Delia Lister, Nature Reach Director: [dlistner@pittstate.edu](mailto:dlistner@pittstate.edu)