Internships

Thank you for your interest in the Kids Saving the Rainforest internship program! We are a wildlife sanctuary, rescue and rehabilitation center located in beautiful Quepos, Costa Rica. We rescue over 100 animals every year, and helping us carry out this important work is a team of dedicated interns gaining invaluable experience learning and working in their chosen fields.

We offer competitive, well-respected internship placements in the following departments:

- Wildlife Sanctuary/Zookeeper Internship
- Veterinary Clinic/Wildlife Rehabilitation Internship
- Wildlife Nursery Internship

This guide has been designed to tell you about the internship programs available here at Kids Saving the Rainforest, help you decide if this is something you would like to explore, and to lead you through the application process. Keep reading to learn more!
What is it like to intern at Kids Saving the Rainforest?

Our internships provide extensive training and real-world knowledge of what it takes to work hands-on with wildlife in a rehabilitation setting. Most internships have a duration of 85 days. (*We encourage our interns to stay for longer periods of time. If this is your intention, please let us know ahead of time as our availability is limited and internships are scheduled sometimes quite far in advance.*) Interns will work 6 days a week for at least 8 hours a day. You will have one day off a week in which you can explore the beautiful beaches and rainforest in the surrounding area. We can tailor your internship to the needs of your university program’s requirements.

We ask that all interns select and carry out a special project during their time with us, culminating in both a short written component and informal verbal presentation. For those students who need to write a thesis or dissertation, this is an excellent opportunity to carry out your studies. As part of the internship you will also be responsible for being a tour guide at least once a week in the wildlife sanctuary to educate the public on wildlife conservation and introduce them to the amazing animals in our care.

**Required Qualifications/Experience:**

We are seeking serious, passionate individuals with the desire to dedicate themselves to work in the wildlife/animal fields. All interns must be extremely committed to animal conservation and willing to forgo personal comfort for the benefit of the animals they are helping for the duration of their stay.

Coursework in veterinary studies, primatology, zoology, environmental education, wildlife ecology or a related field is recommended. Spanish language skills, as well as experience traveling to a tropical country and living in remote conditions are preferred but not necessary. All interns must complete required vaccinations and purchase current international health insurance while in Costa Rica.
Available Internships

- **Wildlife Sanctuary/Zookeeper Intern**: This internship will help prepare you for a career in the field of Zookeeping and Animal Caretaking. You will assist our Sanctuary Manager/Biologist & Zookeeper in our Wildlife Sanctuary elevating the quality of life of animals in captivity. You will be performing animal husbandry to include assisting in the daily feeding, cleaning, and enrichment of enclosures. You will assess behavior, and may be called upon to assist in capturing or restraining animals for necessary medical procedures.

- **Veterinary Clinic/Wildlife Rehabilitation Intern**: This internship is suited for students or recent graduates with a concentration in veterinary medicine, biology, wildlife management, animal conservation, and similar fields of study. You will assist our veterinary team in the clinic performing exams, treatments (if trained and authorized) surgeries (for those interested), handling/restraining wildlife, and various procedures. You will assist in the intake of injured and orphaned wildlife, provide routine daily cleaning and feeding for the animals currently residing in the clinic, rehabilitation and pre-release areas. Interns should expect a busy, physically challenging, highly variable environment with emergency cases coming in at a moment’s notice. You will also work in our rescue center, helping prepare animals for their release. The tasks required of you will vary greatly depending upon the animals in our care and where they are in on their journey to release. Activities will include designing enclosure and feeding enrichments, animal observations, collecting data with ethograms, foraging, taking animals in rehabilitation out to exercise, coming up with rehab out to exercise, designing challenges to prepare animals for release and more. You may be called upon to perform studies of suitable habitats, and/or to track individuals after release.

- **Nursery Assistant Intern**: This internship requires a selfless dedication to the care and rearing of orphaned baby wildlife. You will assist our Nursery Manager in a variety of duties that may include syringe feeding, preparing special diets for the babies, collecting wild leaves, and supervising the climbing and foraging of young animals as they practice for their lives in the wild. This position requires long hours, a willingness to work some night shifts, and foregoing personal comfort in rustic conditions in the interest of the babies you are
working hard to help save. A preference for a 6-month placement is given for this internship given the extensive training required.

Our Location

Kids Saving the Rainforest is located just outside of beautiful Quepos and Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica. This location puts you within easy access of beautiful beaches, a world-renowned national park, restaurants, shops, and all the great recreational opportunities this area has to offer. Although it is only a 15 minute drive into town and a 30-minutes to the beach, when you are here on the property all that feels a world away.

Located on 85 beautiful acres of rainforest, you can hike into the jungle where you are more likely to come upon a wild troop of Grey-Crowned Squirrel Monkeys or a Poison Dart frog than another human. Everything is alive and green. We also have a beautiful pool with a stunning mountain view to cool off in when you’re not working. You will gather for meals in our large, open-air restaurant area where everyone comes together to eat, socialize, and (of course) talk about animals. *(A prepared lunch will be provided daily, and basic local staples will be provided to you to prepare your own breakfast and dinner.)*
The Accommodations

During your internship you will be living in our 3-story volunteer center. The third floor is an open concept hostel-style space with bunk beds, a nice kitchen, shared bathrooms and shower facilities, three porches with amazing views, and a lovely space for you to gather together with your fellow interns and volunteers.

**Real talk:** This is the jungle. There are bugs, hot and humid air, and fans but no air conditioning. You will be living and working in close quarters with up to 8 other volunteers from around the world of mixed genders and ages. You will have mosquito bites and you will sweat and get dirty. This can be a wild and wonderful new experience for you, but you need to come here with the right mindset to make the most of your time here. We are all here to help save the rainforest!
For those interns interested in a more private space with a few more modern comforts, you might consider an upgrade to one of the luxury cottages in The Blue Banyan Inn, located right here on the property, for an additional fee.

2020 Internship Rates
$100 deposit required upon acceptance to hold your space.

- **Bunk Room Rates**
  - 85 day internship fee: $2,975
  - 170 day internship fee $5,950

- **Cottage Rates**
  - $85 a night for 1 person
  - $120 a night for 2 people
  - $165 a night for 3 people
All prices include full training and guidance by an experienced staff, housing, a prepared lunch, and basic local staples for interns to prepare their own breakfasts and dinners.

How to Apply

Visit our website at kidssavingtherainforest.org and fill out the Volunteer Application.

Please indicate your desired internship, your planned dates and if they are flexible, a CV, a cover letter, and anything else you think will show us about you and why you want to help us save the rainforest. For any questions, write to us at volunteer@kstr.org

We look forward to your application!