**Position:** American Institute of Rhinoceros Science (AIRS) Internship

**Organization:** Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden (AZA Member)/The Wilds (AZA Member)   
**Location:** The Wilds, Cumberland, OH, United States  
**Job or Internship:** Internship

The Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and The Wilds jointly seek to fill a full-time internship position made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

**What is AIRS?**

***American Institute of Rhinoceros Science - a model for saving species with science ex situ***

AIRS is a new, big initiative, taking rhino science and collaboration to a new level while helping to save rhinos from extinction. AIRS is led by a coalition of expert rhino scientists and is founded on the partnership between CREW (with its renowned *Signature* Rhino Conservation Project), and The Wilds (one of the most successful rhino breeding and management facilities). This large coalition will employ a multidisciplinary strategy to overcome the four greatest scientific challenges to sustaining rhino populations within our nation’s zoos. The team recognizes that the scientific challenges are inter-related and studying one of them in isolation will fall short of what could be achieved by tackling all of them together. In short, **the whole is greater than the sum of its parts**. AIRS will consist of a diverse, inclusive team with individuals in all stages of their training/careers. The project will produce science-based, affordable and feasible management recommendations for monitoring and controlling physical condition, iron overload, and reproduction, while ensuring optimal rhino wellbeing. This program will set a precedent for saving species with science in zoos, a model with value for all species at risk in the wild.

**Position summary**: The goal of this position is to provide intern training in animal husbandry (particularly rhinos), operant conditioning training, and research. The individual’s training program may be tailored based on the selected candidate’s skillset and aptitude, as well as current needs of scientists, animal care staff and veterinarians. The intern will work at “the Wilds” in Cumberland, Ohio as an integral part of the AIRS team of scientists, veterinarians, animal management staff and graduate students and will be supervised by the AIRS Project Site Operations Manager and the Wilds’ animal husbandry staff. He or she will assist animal staff in day-to-day operations, including food prep/feeding, cleaning, and routine animal care procedures with the rhinos and, to a lesser extent, with other diverse species at the Wilds as needed. The intern’s help will free up time for all staff, including the intern, to participate in necessary AIRS’ activities which could include (but are not limited to): fecal/urine/saliva sample collections, assisting scientists with reproductive/physiological/behavioral research, equipment, observations and data collection, assisting with rhino operant conditioning training for procedures such as blood collection, rectal ultrasound examinations, hand injections, and attachment of monitoring devices. The chosen individual needs to be prepared for a fascinating learning experience and a very physical job.

**Qualifications:** This internship is open to undergraduates or graduates. The intern must have a strong interest in animal management, zoology, biological sciences, animal, veterinary and/or environmental sciences or similar fields. The AIRS team is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Desirable traits:

* Eager to learn with an outstanding work ethic;
* Positive, can-do attitude;
* Detail-oriented and organized;
* Comfortable working with all forms of biological samples;
* Competent with basic computer software programs;
* Prompt and reliable in the areas of attendance and performance;
* Able to work well with diverse personalities;
* Previous experience working with large hoofstock (horses, cows, other exotics) preferred;
* Valid driver’s license
* Works well independently
* Excellent communicator
* Listens and takes directions well

**Working Conditions**: While performing the duties of the job, the incumbent is regularly required to stand, walk, lift, handle shovels, pitchforks, brooms, hoses, and other barn equipment. The intern should be physically capable of regularly lifting 50 lb bags of grain and/or bales of hay and must be prepared to perform tasks under varied environmental conditions (heat, cold, rain, high pollen count, etc.,). The incumbent may also be required to spend hours observing animals, entering data or working on a computer,

**Compensation & Benefits**: This is a full-time (40 hr/wk), 6-month, un-benefited position. Housing at the Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio will be provided and will be paid for by the grant. A small stipend of $200/month will also be provided. There will be six consecutive internships spanning the three years of the AIRS grant. This posting is for the first position that has a flexible starting date between December 1, 2021 and March 1, 2022.

**To apply for this position**: Qualified applicants must apply via our online application on our website at: http://cincinnatizoo.org/about-us/job-opportunities/. Please specify your desired start date (Month) in your application. Cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references should be included in your online application. Closing date for the first round of applications is October 10th, 2021 however; if appropriate candidates are not identified, the position will remain posted until a qualified candidate(s) is identified.

**Pre-hiring**: Hiring is contingent on the chosen candidate passing drug and nicotine tests within 30 days of the start date and submitting a photo of their COVID vaccine card and proof of a valid driver’s license.

Successful candidates will embrace and continuously demonstrate the Core Values of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden which include, but are not limited to: Building Collaborative Relationships through open communication and active listening; having Positivity and Energy through positive attitudes and making time to celebrate successes; having Accountability, Mutual Trust and Respect through taking ownership of issues, learning from mistakes, treating others with respect, holding self and others accountable and doing what you say you’re going to do; possessing Progressive Thinking through being a self-directed learner, and learning from others, thinking creatively, challenging the status quo respectively, and demonstrating relentless pursuit for improvement; and having Pride, Passion & a Sense of Ownership through respect and care for the living collection, going the extra mile, always being an advocate for the Zoo and demonstrating a strong personal ownership.