



**BRONX ZOO**  
**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S**

## ***Discovery Guide Program***

***If you have already graduated from high school, you may omit this form.***

### ***High School Teacher Recommendation Form***

#### **To The Student:**

This form is to be completed by a school faculty member. You may submit an application without this form; however, the recommendation form must be submitted by the application deadline in order to be considered complete. You may submit additional letters of recommendation; however, these documents should not be submitted in place of this form. Please *do not* submit copies of your school transcripts.

#### **To the Evaluator:**

The student listed below is applying to the Bronx Zoo Education Department's Discovery Guide Program. The Discovery Guide Program is designed to be a rewarding volunteer opportunity that allows its participants to assist our conservation efforts by educating guests visiting the Bronx Zoo. Guides will focus on a select group of visitor experiences and, in turn, gain experience with teaching, leadership, and public speaking, while learning about animals and the wild places they inhabit! Through interpretation and mini lectures at zoo exhibits, and special events, Discovery Guides interact with thousands of visitors from all over the world.

The Discovery Guide program is a highly competitive and **unpaid** volunteer opportunity. While all interested individuals (over age 15) should apply, we actively recruit high school students from public and private schools within New York City and neighboring counties. Space in this program is limited. We are looking for enthusiastic, outgoing, creative, motivated, team players, who have an interest in science, education, or conservation. Prospective guides should also have the ability to adapt to a fast paced environment. Your insight regarding this student is important to us and we would appreciate your candid responses to the questions below. Please feel free to attach a separate sheet of paper, if needed.

If you have any questions regarding the program, please call 718-220-5142 and leave a message.

Student's Printed Name \_

School \_

Teacher's Name \_

Work Phone \_

Work Fax \_

Business E-mail

Subject Taught \_

Signature\_

***Submission Deadlines: 4:00pm (EST), Feb 18<sup>th</sup> (Spring/Full Season); May 1 (Summer/Fall Season)***

Coordinator of Volunteers, Education Department, WCS – Bronx Zoo, 2300 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10460 or by E-mail: [discoveryguide@wcs.org](mailto:discoveryguide@wcs.org)

1. In what capacity and for how long have you known this student?
2. In what way have you observed this student's interpersonal skills?
3. Does this student have a well developed interest or background in biology or conservation? What special projects or studies has he/she undertaken?
4. Which best describes this student's relationship with their peers? Please explain your selection.  
 shows leadership     reserved     is easily accepted by peers     prefers to be alone
5. What other comments can you offer in support of this student's application to become a Bronx Zoo Discovery Guide?
6. How would you rate this student's ability to be able to work with the public? Please check the rating that best describes this student.

**Outstanding** - Student has excellent oratory skills, commands attention, and uses visual aids effectively.

**Excellent** – Student speaks very well, has a good command of attention, and uses visual aids well.

**Good**- Student is comfortable giving presentations, makes an effort to uses visual aids, and able to command attention for a short time.

**Not Applicable (N/A)** - I have not had the opportunity to observe this student's ability to work with the public.

7. Please evaluate this student. Place an "X" mark under the appropriate rating for each quality.

1=Outstanding    2=Excellent    3=Good    4=Average    5=Fair    6=Below Average

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Oral Communication Skills						
Common Sense						
Curiosity						
Creativity						
Dependability						
Sense of Responsibility						
Self-Motivation						
Ability to work in a group						
Reaction to Criticism						
Regard for Authority						
Regard for Rules						
Cooperation						
Flexibility						
Sensitivity to others' feelings						
Ability to follow directions						

*Thank you for your time and input.*