



# What Inspires You to Work at the Cincinnati Zoo?

September, 2014

## Africa Exhibit



### Wendy R.

I grew up going to the Cincinnati Zoo and always dreamed of working here as a keeper one day. Now that I'm older, I really appreciate the steps we're taking to become the greenest zoo in America. I feel like Cincinnati Zoo is one of the few institutions out there that is actually practicing what we preach in terms of conservation and sustainability.



### Jenna W.

After my first internship at the Cincinnati Zoo I fell in love. The Cincinnati Zoo is great at engaging and educating visitors, which in my opinion is one of its most important roles. I feel incredibly lucky that because of our zoo, myself and others have the opportunity to work with or visit and learn about very rare and endangered species, such as the Sumatran rhino.



### Dana B.

Being a part of the new Africa section has given me the opportunity to incorporate my love for all animals with visitor engagement that goes above and beyond most other institutions. The efforts towards conservation are highly commendable and the green culture is something to be proud of.



### Dan T.

The atmosphere at Cincinnati Zoo is contagious! Everyone is passionate about wildlife and conservation and works collaboratively to inspire the general public and each other in a very positive way.

## Elephant House / Giraffe Barn



### **Cecil J. Jr.**

Working with some of the most magnificent animals that someday are not going to be on the face of earth. To look back at our accomplishments and to say that we have worked with those animals right there at the zoo and we were a big part of their life. I am motivated to get up every morning and come to work. I look forward to coming every day because each work day is never the same. It never gets boring and there is always something going on that is cool.



### **Rick H.**

I believe each member of my team believes in the importance of zoos as a way to convey the importance of conservation and how we can make a difference. The motivation is that everything in the world is connected, so what happens here affects events on the other side of the world and vice versa. Teaching children is important as they are the future decision makers.



### **Val N. Jr.**

We are ambassadors for our wild counterparts. Through their experiences with us, our guests gain a bond with the world's creatures.



### **Eric D.**

I feel inspired by having the chance to pass along that love of our natural world to the guests of our zoo. I am also extremely lucky to be surrounded by likeminded keepers. By using an animal as majestic as our Asian Elephants, our department can create an unforgettable moment in many lives. This should lead to people who care about our world.



### **Ross G.**

I have been working with Elephants for close to 30 years. That love of elephants brought me to the Cincinnati Zoo. Here, I am able to continue my work with this amazing animal. It also gives me a chance to contribute to the development of a strong elephant keeper staff. With its dedication to conservation, the zoo and its keepers make a positive impact in the lives of wild elephants as well.

## Wild Encounters



### **Caitlin M.**

Inspiring with wildlife everyday isn't just the zoo's mission it's something that speaks to me personally. I enjoy this type of inspiration with the visitors but also with my team.



### **Maura M.**

Helping to build the personal connections that visitors have with our animal ambassadors, as well as our staff, is what makes my job so much fun and meaningful. We help to create a reason to care by bringing them "up close and personal" to our collection, and working for an organization that places so much importance on helping us achieve success in these moments with our visitors is a great feeling.

## Cat Show



### **Alicia S.**

I am inspired by the ambassador animals I work with. They allow us to be such a large part of their life, and give so much to us. All I can do is try to return the favor by doing everything I can for them and their species.



### **Linda C.**

What inspires me is knowing that our work here matters. It matters to the visitors we see daily, the students we visit yearly and the global projects that we support. It is powerful to see our zoo's conservation work in Africa and the positive impact we make on people, communities and animals, even from the other side of the world.



### **Colleen N.**

This is my dream job. I get to interact with amazing animals and share my passion with thousands of zoo visitors, all at an institution that supports the conservation efforts we teach about.



## Africa Interpretive



### **Sarah D.**

When I started working in the Education Department, many years ago, I was inspired by the connection to be made between animals and people and I still am today as a member of the Interpretive Collection. Although my path has been winding and varied at the Zoo over the last 15 years and my role has changed, I am still inspired every time a guest or staff member forms a special relationship with an animal, including my 3-year-old son who loves participating in Zoo Troop. Most recently I have been inspired by the Zoo's investment in its staff for both their personal and professional development.



### **Amanda C.**

When I started at the Cincinnati Zoo 14 years ago, all I wanted to do was work with animals. That is what motivated me when I was younger. However, over the last 14 years, in addition to watching myself grow, I have watched the zoo grow. I love the support I get from this organization in my growth and development. I am also inspired by the efforts of the Cincinnati Zoo with conservation and sustainability. In addition to the organization as a whole, I am inspired every day by my staff and co-workers. I couldn't ask for a better group of people to work with or a better place!



### **Susie S.**

I really believe program animals are an invaluable tool for engaging people and encouraging them to care about animal conservation. I am continually inspired by the look of awe on our guests' faces as they meet animals who before, only existed in pictures or on TV. The Cincinnati Zoo is a place where ideas blossom into reality, fostered by an innovative and dedicated team of leaders.



### **Joann L.**

I started at this zoo as a volunteer almost two years ago, because I liked animals. Little did I know, my world and career path were about to change! I feel particularly lucky to be a part of the Interpretive Collection, because the creatures that I care for aren't separated from our guests by glass or a moat- they get up close and personal, close enough to care! Making that connection with a person is what really makes a difference and allows us to further our mission: Inspiring passion for nature and saving wildlife for future generations. I truly feel that my work each day is not only important to the individual animals, whom I cherish, but to furthering the goals that I share with our institution. I am so grateful to be a part of the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden :)

