

**An interview with ANSC Major Christiana Fischer regarding her
Six Flags "Zoology and Veterinary Studies" Experience**

(New Jersey, Summer 2011)



Q: Where did you intern, and when?

A: During this past Summer 2011, I participated in Six Flags Great Adventure's "Zoology and Veterinary Studies Internship" at their Safari Park in Jackson, NJ. The Safari Park and the theme park are home to over 1200 species of animals, most of which I had the opportunity to see and work with.

Q: Was it a paid internship? What did you do there?

A: It was a paid internship, which could also be taken for credit. It was based on a rotational schedule in which I spent two weeks working the gates, two weeks with the vet staff, two weeks at the park's dolphin show, and two weeks at their animal education center.

During the two weeks that I spent working gates, I interacted with customers and got to see firsthand how the animals in each section of the park interacted and behaved. During the two weeks I spent with the zoo staff, I did daily rounds, collected samples, watched live births, observed surgeries and knock downs, and even got to draw blood and give injections. When I was at the dolphin show, I learned about animal training techniques and got to participate in the three shows that occurred daily. When I worked at the animal education center, I explained to guests about the types of animals we had in the park, gave "yard talks", in which I had an animal, for example an African Hedgehog, and spoke to the public about basic facts. I was fortunate enough to feed lion cubs, draw blood from a kangaroo, shoot a dart gun, interact with baby bears, and train dolphins.



Q: When did you apply for this internship?

A: One of the requirements for the internship is that you are at least a sophomore in college. When I applied, I was in my sophomore year and the internship was from the beginning of June 2011-August 2011.



Q: How long did the internship last?

A: It lasted 10 weeks and after the 10 weeks were over, I was able to stay and work until I was ready to go back to school.

Q: How did you learn about this opportunity?

A: I discovered the internship online, but was lucky because I am a NJ resident and Six Flags is only about 25 minutes away.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add about your experience?

A: At the end of the program, I had to take an exam as well as give a presentation on a disease that the vet staff assigned in the beginning of the summer. The experience was once in a lifetime and I learned more during that summer program than I ever had in a classroom.



Q: If someone has questions, can they contact you regarding your internship experience?

A: Sure! They can reach me at christiana.fischer@uconn.edu

Students, would *you* like to learn more about this opportunity? Here are a few useful links:

Zoology Internship Description:

<http://www.sixflags.com/greatadventure/assets/pdf/Internships.pdf>

How to Apply to Six Flags' Internships:

<http://www.sixflagsjobs.com/dynamicparkpage.php?park=greatAdventure&page=Internships>