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Apprentice Primate Caregiver

Born Free USA, an international wildlife conservation and animal protection organization, has openings for Apprentice Primate Caregivers at its primate sanctuary in south Texas. This is an exciting opportunity for people interested in gaining experience in hands-on care of primates.

Apprentices will receive training and work alongside members of our caregiving and veterinary team ensuring the health and well-being of the hundreds of sanctuary residents. Primary duties will include:

- Preparing diets and distributing food.
- Cleaning and maintaining enclosures.
- Assisting the veterinary team and preparing and distributing medications
- Grounds and equipment upkeep.

Prior experience working with primates is not required. Desired attributes include:

- Demonstrating respect for all animals and a commitment to Born Free USA's values.
- Ability to work calmly around animals and treat them in a humane manner.
- Commitment and openness to learning and following instructions.
- Ability to interact positively and work with people from different backgrounds, cultures, and personalities.
- Fluency in English, both spoken and written.
- Able to perform physical labor for up to 8 hours per day, including lifting up to 50 pounds, and ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions including cold, rain, and extreme heat.
- Possess a valid driver's license.

Apprentices must commit to a term of a minimum of 6 months, up to a maximum of 12 months. They will work five 8-hour shifts per week. Apprentices will be offered vacation time of up to 10 days for a 12-month tenure or up to 5 days for a 6-month tenure.

Born Free USA provides free on-site accommodations and a \$400 per month stipend.

About the Born Free USA Primate Sanctuary

The Born Free Primate Sanctuary provides lifelong care to hundreds of monkeys, many of whom have been rescued from abusive or exploitative situations. We are located on 175 acres approximately 90 miles south of San Antonio, Texas. The focus of our animal care is to provide conditions in which this captive population of macaques, baboons, and vervets are allowed to live out the remainder of their lives with extensive freedom of movement, choice of food, and choice of companions, in accordance with their social nature. The sanctuary is not open to the public and we do not display animals for educational or entertainment purposes.

Born Free's mission is to end the suffering of wild animals in captivity, rescue individual animals in need, protect wildlife - including endangered species - in their natural habitats, and encourage compassionate conservation globally. Inspired by the iconic film Born Free, we work locally, nationally, and internationally to end wild animal cruelty and suffering, protect threatened wildlife, and keep wildlife in the wild where they rightfully belong.

How to Apply

Send a cover letter and resume to Katie Conway, Sanctuary Manager, at katiec@bornfreeusa.org. Applications are taken on an ongoing basis.

FAQs - APPRENTICE

Do I need to be eligible to work in the United States?

At this time, apprenticeships are only open to people eligible to work in the United States. We are exploring opening this program to international applicants in the future. Please check back later.

Can I be an apprentice for less than 6 months?

Due to the training required, apprentices must commit to at least 6 months. Preference will be given to those who can commit to 12 months. Please see our volunteer program for stays of less than 6 months.

Will I be offered a job after completing the apprenticeship?

Completing an apprenticeship does not imply or guarantee employment at Born Free USA. If there are any caregiver positions open at the end of your apprenticeship, you will be welcome to apply.

Will I have weekends and holidays off?

The sanctuary operates 365 days a year. Saturdays/Sundays and holidays off are not guaranteed. We will do our best to accommodate time off requests for holidays, but permanent staff members will be prioritized.

Does Born Free USA embrace diversity and inclusivity?

Absolutely. We welcome people from all backgrounds, cultures, races, ethnicities, religions, gender identities, and sexual orientations. We are a safe place. Harassment, bullying, or discrimination is not tolerated.

Where is the sanctuary located? What is the area around there like?

The sanctuary is located approximately 90 miles south of San Antonio, Texas near the town of Cotulla. It is a rural area. You can get groceries within 5-15 miles, but you'll likely want to go to San Antonio or Austin on your days off for entertainment or social activities. The surrounding area has beautiful places to camp, swim in a river, or hike.

How do I get there? Who pays for my travel?

You are responsible for arranging and the cost of travel to and from the sanctuary. The closest airport is San Antonio. If you do not have your own vehicle, we will pick you up from the airport on arrival and return you for departure.

Will I need a car while I am there?

We recommend you have a vehicle. We are in a rural location, and there is no public transportation. You need a car to go grocery shopping, for entertainment, and any activities off the property. Our team members are great about offering to have others go along with them, but they are not obligated to do so. Company vehicles are not provided for personal use.

What is the weather like in south Texas?

The winters are mostly mild, though it can drop to freezing temperatures for short periods. Spring and fall are lovely. Summer heat begins in May and doesn't let up until October. You can expect several months of temperatures in the 90s and over 100 degrees.

What are the accommodations?

We offer shared housing in mobile homes, and we'll be honest...they aren't luxurious, but they are fully furnished and have heat and air conditioning. Accommodations include a furnished bedroom (either single or double), furnished living room, kitchen with appliances and basic cooking equipment, utilities, and internet. We do not provide bedding, bath linens, or phone or other electronic devices.

How much will I work?

You will work five days a week, eight hours a day with lunch and rest periods. You will have two days off each week to relax and enjoy the surrounding area.

Can I bring my pet cat or dog?

Generally, no. We wish we could accommodate them all, but we have to consider the dynamics of shared housing.

Do I have to be vegan/vegetarian?

As an animal protection organization, we encourage a compassionate plant-based diet, but it is not required. All team members must be respectful of their colleagues' and housemates' dietary choices.