

Glen Helen Association

Raptor Center Trainee Description

Yellow Springs, Ohio

Start date August 2026

Duration - 6 month commitment with a possible 6 month continuation

Summary:

The Raptor Center trainees are valuable members of the educational and rehabilitation programs. Throughout this six or 12-month program, trainees gain hands-on education and extensive experience in captive raptor care and management, rehabilitation, education both at the center and in the community, training and enrichment. Trainees are mentored by two full-time and one half-time permanent staff members and our offsite veterinarian and have access to a variety of job shadowing opportunities in many wildlife related careers. This training program is best suited for individuals who have a developed interest in wildlife care and wellbeing, wildlife rehabilitation and wildlife education. Prior experience or specific education is not required, however a real world understanding of working with animals and wildlife is highly desirable.

Training:

Training is the underlying goal of the Raptor Center trainee experience. Much of the training is hands-on, achieved through the daily practice of center operations, with ongoing guidance from the director and staff. Trainees will be given a training syllabus that outlines scheduled blocks during the program for skills development and professional shadowing opportunities. If a trainee stays for a second six-month block, they will have an opportunity to develop a focus project with a staff member specific to their continuing education goals. Trainees are expected to participate in all training assignments and conduct themselves professionally.

Raptor Center Trainee major responsibilities:

- Daily care of educational ambassadors
- Daily care of rehabilitation patients
- Initial intake assessment for rehabilitation patients
- Training and enrichment of educational ambassadors
- Daily cleaning/maintenance of Raptor Center rooms and outdoor area
- Care of mouse, rat and quail breeding areas
- Educational programs on and offsite as scheduled
- Release of birds as needed
- Other duties that pertain to the educational or rehabilitation mission of the Raptor Center, and further the training development of the RCA.

Hours/Schedule:

Trainee hours fluctuate greatly based on the rehabilitation duties, educational programs and seasonal feeding times. The trainees work together to ensure scheduling and coverage of bird care as well as after hour bird intakes while also making sure everyone has sufficient time off to rest and recharge. Communication is key to ensure everyone's time is respected. The trainee program can be exhausting both physically and emotionally and we encourage self-care when needed.

Stipend:

\$425/week payable via direct deposit.

Trainees receive training and a biweekly stipend to assist with living expenses, however trainees should note taxes are not withheld from these biweekly paychecks. At the end of each year, trainees will receive an IRS 1099 form and be responsible for paying any applicable taxes.

Housing:

The Raptor Center trainees live in a private furnished bedroom in the shared "Roost" living space. The Roost has a kitchen, bathrooms, and living room. Interns from other parts of the Glen may live in the Roost during certain seasons but every intern will maintain their private room. Please note: due to the shared living space and the potential for zoonotic diseases between domestic and wild animals, we do not allow any mammal or avian pets. Small reptiles or fish may be permitted on a case by case basis.

Timeframe of commitment:

The timeframe for this training program is six months with a potential six month extension (for a total of one full year). Though we do understand that life is unpredictable, we ask that trainees commit to the full six month program minimum. At four months in, trainees and staff will discuss the possibility of a second six month term continuation if interested.

Qualifications:

- Minimum-18 years of age
- Eligible to work in the United States
- Passion for working with and educating about wildlife
- Applicant must be patient, hardworking, flexible, detail-oriented, and able to react well under pressure
- Previous experience working with or caring for wildlife preferred
- Previous experience in public speaking or education preferred
- Willing to live in community and work closely as a team
- Ability to work outdoors in all weather
- Must be fingerprinted and pass a FBI/Ohio BCI criminal background check (to be completed upon start of training program)

To apply:

<https://forms.gle/pAfoRMVKBrH8qX176>