

Organization for Bat Conservation Bat Keeper for a Day

The Organization is offering this unique opportunity to see what it's like to be an Animal Keeper specializing in bats! You'll meet some of the animals up close and personal and learn first-hand about what it takes to care for exotic animals. You'll roll-up your sleeves to work with expert keepers meeting the daily requirements of our nocturnal residents. Whether you are following a path to a career in Zoo Keeping or just want to spend more time with your favorite animal, this is a once in a lifetime experience! You will help to care for bats, flying squirrels, sugar gliders, skunks, a sloth, owls, and more. Get a unique insight into the day-to-day life of our keepers by working side-by-side with our bat experts.

To schedule call (248) 645-3234 or email Dawn at dvezina@batconservation.org.

Ages: 13-Adult (adult chaperone under 18)

Price: \$250

Time: 8am-12pm

Place: The Bat Zone at Cranbrook Institute of Science
39221 Woodward Ave.
PO Box 801
Bloomfield Hills, MI
48303

Your experience will include:

- A personal Keeper tour and 3 hours of job shadowing
- Learn about the husbandry & nutritional needs of the animals while helping to provide their care
- Prepare food for all of our animals
- See a demonstration of positive reinforcement in a target training session
- Assist in placing Enrichment items in each of the fruit bat enclosures, then watch the animals' reactions and record
- Photo op standing next to the largest species of bat in the world, the Malayan Flying Fox
- Go home with a Save the Bats T-shirt!

What should I wear?

Most of this program is indoors, but there are times you will be outside. Please dress comfortably for the day and appropriately for the weather. The program will be carried out regardless of weather conditions. Please wear comfortable shoes that are close-toed. Sneakers or work boots are perfect. Old shoes are preferable since you will get dirty. Wearing flip-flops and sandals will limit the activities you will be able to participate in.

What interaction will I have with the animals?

Our animals are trained to work with our keepers and educators, but they are still wild animals so their behavior is unpredictable. It is important that you heed all instructions from staff. Never enter any animal enclosure without permission from a keeper. Wait for instructions from the keepers before approaching any of the animals. You must not touch the animals. You are however welcome to get close enough for a good look and whiff!

Is there any reason I would be restricted from participating?

In the interest of our animals' health and safety, guests who have been outside of the United States or outside of Canada within 3 months of the program will not be allowed to participate. Guests are expected to respect all guidelines and instructions from staff. A negative TB test is required before your visit. Anyone not following instructions may be asked to leave the program without refund.