

Press Release

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NATIONAL AVIARY
let your spirit soar

‘Trainer for a Day’ Program Gives Teens, Adults Opportunity to Experience Life of Professional Bird Trainer, Keeper

Have you ever wondered what it’s like to talk to the penguins, or teach an owl to hop on your glove on command? Do you TiVo Animal Planet shows and secretly wish you could trade places with the hosts? Are you or a young



person you know considering a career in the zoological field, veterinary care or wildlife management? If any of these apply, then the National Aviary’s *Trainer for a Day* program is for you.

This immersion program allows individuals a fascinating, one-on-one, behind-the-scenes experience in the world of the bird trainers at the National Aviary. Each participant or pair of individuals will work alongside trainers at the Aviary who will take them through a full day of work with the birds. Participants will assist with food preparation and feeding, learn how Aviary staff trains its birds, and conduct a bit of

housekeeping for the National Aviary’s popular African penguins: Stanley, Elvis, Patrick, Sidney and Simon.

Lunch, a National Aviary t-shirt and a photo of the experience are included in cost of registration.

“*Trainer for a Day* is an incredible opportunity to get close to many spectacular and rare birds, and to see the level of care, expertise and time it takes to feed, train and maintain the health of the more than 600 birds in our collection,” says Nicole Begley, Supervisor of Animal Programs at the National Aviary.

Trainer for a Day spots must be booked in advance; maximum of two participants per day. Participants are asked to wear closed-toe shoes and loose, comfortable clothing that they don’t mind getting dirty. Program fee is \$250 per child 12-16 and single adult individual age 17 and up; \$50 for chaperone. Participants ages 12-16 must be accompanied by a paying chaperone. Member discount available. Call 412.323.7235, x209 for information and to register.

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The National Aviary inspires respect for nature through an appreciation of birds.

