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| **Zoo Conservation Outreach Group**  | zcog-logo-2016 |
| **ZCOG Scholarship Program: FALL 2025** |

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| Zoo Conservation Outreach Group’s (ZCOG) Conservation Training Scholarship Program promotes the professional development of staff of Latin American and Caribbean zoos, aquariums, and related facilities. The program awards training scholarships to qualified individuals that allow them to participate in professional training program courses offered by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and its approved partners. To date, ZCOG has awarded over 160 training scholarships to individuals representing more than 50 zoological institutions in 17 different countries in Latin America and the Caribbean Basin.ELIGIBILITY * Preference is given to employees or associates of **AZA or ALPZA -accredited Latin American or Caribbean zoological institutions** or related facilities.
* Applicants must be **citizens or legal residents of a Latin American or Caribbean country**.
* Applicants must possess a **functional proficiency in English**, the language in which the professional training courses are held.
* Applicants **must possess a valid visa for travel to the United States**.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS Preference will be given to keeper and curatorial staff, and professionals early in their career or who otherwise lack access to training opportunities. Applicants may only submit one scholarship application per year. Within a month of attending the training course, the recipient must submit a written or video testimonial describing how participation has influenced his or her professional development. Testimonials and photos may be used in ZCOG and donor institution media. Failure to submit a testimonial may result in a suspension of access to the scholarship program for the individual and their institution.**SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING FALL 2025 AZA TRAINING COURSES** * **Animal Welfare: Evidence-Based Management**
	+ October 20 – 23, 2025, Houston, TX
* **Managing Animal Enrichment & Training Programs**
	+ November 10 – 15, 2025, Denver, CO
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# EXPENSES COVERED

* Course registration.
* Round-trip airfare from recipient’s point of origin to the destination city hosting the workshop.
* Round-trip airport shuttle ground transportation within the continental United States.
* Hotel/lodging throughout the duration of the course.
* Select meals may be provided at the hotel or during the course; participants will need their own funds to cover remaining meals and incidental expenses.

# LOGISTICS

# Course and travel logistics will be handled by ZCOG. For additional information consult the ZCOG website at [www.zcog.org/scholarship-overview](http://www.zcog.org/scholarship-overview)

**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Applications must be written and submitted in English**.** Email completed application, cover letter, and letter of recommendation to zcog@zcog.org (cc: scholarships@zcog.org) before 5:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time) **September 1, 2025.**

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| **Zoo Conservation Outreach Group**   |  |
| **CONSERVATION TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: APPLICATION** |

**I. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Provide your complete name and personal contact information along with information about your current institution, department, and professional title/position.

Last Name:

First Name:

Home Address:

City:       Country:

Cellular phone:

WhatsApp number:

Professional Title:

Zoo/Aquarium/Institution:

Department:

Institution Address:

City:       Country:

Work Phone:

E-mail:

AZA or ALPZA Membership Number (if applicable):

**II. VISA & PASSPORT INFORMATION**

Do you have a valid VISA for travel to the United States: Yes **[ ]**  or No  **[ ]**

Passport number and country of issuance:

Passport expiration date (Month, Day, Year):

# III. PROFESSIONAL TRAINING COURSE SELECTION

Please select the AZA professional training course you would like to attend

**[ ]  Animal Welfare: Evidence-Based Management**

**[ ]  Managing Animal Enrichment & Training Programs**

**IV. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Provide information about your current job. List your title/position, dates employed, and supervisor’s name and title. Briefly describe the main duties performed.

Current Title:

Dates Employed (MM/YYYY):       -

Name of your immediate supervisor:

Supervisor’s Title:

Briefly describe the main duties of your present position (750 character maximum):

**V. EDUCATION**

Provide information about post-secondary degrees, including any programs you are currently attending. List the name of the college or university, location of the school, dates attended, degree received, and program specialization or major.

School:

Location:

Dates Attended (MM/YYYY):       -

Degree:

Major/Specialization:

School:

Location:

Dates Attended (MM/YYYY):       -

Degree:

Major/Specialization:

# VI. PROFESSIONAL TRAININGIndicate whether you have ever received a ZCOG Conservation Training Scholarship and, if so, the scholarship date and course attended

# Have you ever received a ZCOG Conservation Training Scholarship?

# Yes [ ]

# No [ ]

# If yes, please list date of scholarship and course attended:

# VII. COVER LETTER

In a one-page cover letter, briefly state your eligibility for the scholarship (see Eligibility requirements on page 1), describe why you want to attend the selected AZA course, and discuss how participation in the course will advance your career and your institution’s care and conservation of animals.

**VIII. REFERENCES**

Applicants must solicit a letter of recommendation from their supervisor, which the recommender should send directly to zcog@zcog.org with a cc: scholarships@zcog.org.

*Note: the best letters of recommendation are from individuals that know the applicant well and can provide detailed testimony and personalized accounts.*

Please list the person from which you have requested the letter of recommendation, and remind the person to send the confidential letters of support for your application directly to zcog@zcog.org and scholarships@zcog.org before 5:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time) on **September 1, 2025**.

Name:

Institution:

Title:

Address:

City:       Country:

Work Phone:

Email:

# IX. ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE

# [ ]  I hereby verify that all of the above information is truthful and accurate.

Name (please print):

Date Completed (DD/MM/YYYY):

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION**

Email completed application, cover letter, and letter of recommendation to zcog@zcog.org (cc: scholarships@zcog.org) before 5:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time) on **September 1, 2025.**