

Frequently Asked Questions 2019

- **I work full time and need to drop my child off early, what are my options?**
 - No teen participant is allowed on grounds before 8am or after 5pm unless previously set up with Teen Program Supervisor
 - If teens are on grounds at a time that they are not scheduled, the Teen Program staff is not responsible
- **My teenager's uniform gets dirty pretty quick, can we purchase another one?**
 - Yes, extra t-shirts are \$10 a piece and can be purchased with cash, check or credit card in the Education Office throughout the summer. You can always send Austin or Karyn an email and they will put one aside for you!
- **We are taking a vacation during the summer, how far in advance should we let the supervisors know?**
 - Please let Austin and/or the Lead Teen Mentor know as soon as possible to help us know in advance that your teen will not be on grounds for a while.
- **Can my teen stay on Zoo grounds until the Zoo closes if their shift ends earlier?**
 - Yes, teens are allowed to stay on grounds as Zoo guests until 5pm, no teen is allowed on grounds after 5pm
 - Teen Program staff doesn't go home until teens go home, please make your greatest effort to be on time, Zoo staff will do the same
- **Are EdVenture trip fees included in the program payment? When can we sign up?**
 - No, because trips are limited to certain numbers of participants most trips will have an associated extra fee
 - All EdVenture sign ups are open online, if you need access please contact Teen Staff members, we do NOT post these trips on the website
- **My teen isn't feeling well and can't make it to a shift, who should I call?**
 - We ask that you call Austin Kennedy at 719-424-7822 and leave her a voicemail. Both Austin and Karyn check that voicemail daily during the program
- **I want to come and walk around the Zoo while my teen is working, is that okay?**
 - During the program dates of May 23rd-August 8th the teens family, up to three immediate family members that live in their household can come into the Zoo at no cost. The teen must be wearing their name tag to enter the Zoo with family. Please check in at the front gates before entering the Zoo.
- **Is there a minimum number of hours my teen needs to complete over the summer?**
 - We like to recommend trying to complete 100-120 hours over the summer session. It is not required but we find that when you commit more time to getting to know your peers, the staff, and the animals the quality of the teens experience is higher.

Meet The Teen Program Staff

Meet Austin Kennedy – Teen Program & WildNight Supervisor



Born and raised in Minnesota, Austin relocated her life to Colorado in 2014 to join the team of educational mentors at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. Before making the move she was indulging in the small town, off the grid lifestyle, living along Lake Superior, just shy of the Canadian border. She was apprenticing and teaching traditional Scandinavian Craft at the North House Folk School in Grand Marais. Her background of basket weaving and woodworking is still very much present in her day to day life in the mountains. She is known by those in her life as a sucker for adventure and always aspiring to strengthen her connection to nature.

After attending the University of Minnesota she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Outdoor Recreation and Education with an emphasis on Organizational Leadership. Through past experiences that have led Austin around the world, she brings new innovative ideas to the Teen Program at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. With her vast experience in the world of outdoor educational programming, Austin has created and implemented an adventure component into her Zoo programming. Currently the program travels nationally and

internationally teaching about conservation and environmental stewardship through the medium of recreation.

Austin spends her days outside of work finding time to spend with nature to learn from it, and reconnect with it. Whether it is driving the back roads of the desert, hiking with her dogs to find natural hot springs, dwellings, interesting geographical features or foraging for natural materials to craft with, she is always moving. Some say she has no 'off' switch, and her childhood nickname Gogo is a testament to that as well. She is always seeking to learn more from her students, her peers, and community members.

Email: akennedy@cmzoo.org

Desk Line: 719-424-7822 or 719-633-9925 ext. 122

Cell Phone: 612-669-9198 (emergencies only please)

Meet The Teen Program Staff

Meet Russell Friedman– Lead Teen Mentor



Many of you may know me already but for those of you who I am yet to meet my name is Russell Friedman, and I am one of your new Lead Teen Mentors! I first came to the zoo in May of 2018 where I started in the wonderful summer camp programs. It was through the camps that I first got to meet some of our amazing teen volunteers and truly see just how impactful their presence could be. They all worked so well with our younger camp groups and I honestly don't know if I would've survived without them! After camps I continued on as an EdVenture Mentor where I would assist our education department with zoo tours and teen programming. As I continued my work with education I was constantly amazed by the work our teens would do here at the zoo. From their willingness to do the hard, grimy work of animal care to their ability to share knowledge with our guests through their incredible interpretive skills, I truly believe these teens have the capability to change the world!

I have a strong background in the Environmental Education field, which I hope to utilize and strengthen as I continue my work here at the zoo. I graduated from the University of Iowa in 2016 with a B.S. in Environmental Education and earned a Master's Certificate for Environmental Education from Hamline University in 2018. I have worked in quite a few wildlife facilities and nature centers where I have been able to develop my toolbox of both wildlife care and interpretation. I continuously strive to build upon a toolbox in which just last November I took a course to become a Certified Interpretive Guide. With my continuing growth, here at the zoo combined with my experiences I believe I will help bring our teen program to new levels of awesomeness! There has been so much great work done with this program already and I cannot wait to bring new, innovative ideas to the table. There is so much potential with our teens and the possibilities are endless! I look forward to working with each and every one of your teens this upcoming season, and also having the chance to meet everyone that is a part of our teen program family!

Email: rfriedman@cmzoo.org - **Desk Line:** 719-424-7822

Meet Mitch Rosenberg– Teen Program Mentor



Hi, I'm Mitch! I have been working at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo for just over three years now, and I am incredibly excited to move into a new role working with Austin, Russell, and all of your teens! Before coming to the zoo, some of my most formative experiences were gaining a passion for outdoor education as an overnight camp counselor on Cape Cod and learning about animal care, training and conservation through internships at an animal hospital, service dog organization, and another zoo. What I am most looking forward to in this new position is to learn from your teens, because I know from experience that passionate and driven people who get involved in programs like this one at this age have just as much to share with the world - and me - as I do with them!

Email: mrosenberg@cmzoo.org - **Desk Line:** 719-424-7822
