

## **Zoologist**

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My dream career is to be a zoologist. Zoologists study and research animals you find in your local zoo. They also see how the animals adapt to situations and how they survive in and out of captivity. Being a zoologist is in my opinion really cool, and amazing experience.

When I become a zoologist I will accomplish tasks like doing lab work on animal specimens, and research on animals in the wild. I will educate the public about how to respect wildlife, what to do if you encounter a wild animal and much more. I mostly want to do fieldwork, which is outdoors observing animals naturally. My true passion is to branch out into wild cats specifically lions. Working with big cats is categorized into mammalogy.

As far back as I can remember I have been in love with animals. I remember the first time I saw *The Lion King* I really loved it. When I got my cat it was the happiest day of my life. The best part was that I got to name her Sunny, because she has orange spots that look like sun is shining through them. At first when my family caught on that I loved animals all of them except my mother thought it was just a phase. Two years ago I really caught on that I wanted to do something with animals. But I also wanted to do something with science, I was disappointed that I had to choose one. I went to my dad and told him about the dilemma that I was having and he said, try to find something that involves both. I listened to him and immediately started researching. That's when I found zoology, it involved animals and science.

There are three levels in your zoologist career that you can accomplish. Level one is where you start. It is being a field researcher, its earnings are about \$35k-40k a year. To be a field researcher you need a bachelor's degree in zoology. Its responsibilities are to mostly conduct experiments. Level two is an assistant research scientist. Your education needs to be a master's degree in zoology. On an average year you earn \$45k-60k. Observing animals and to write up research are all the responsibilities an assistant research scientist has to do.

The final level, level three is the highest you can go. This is when you officially become a zoologist. Its earnings are higher but the responsibilities are greater too. You earn \$70k-100k a year. For this level of expertise you need to have a PHD in zoology plus many years of experience. The responsibilities are also observing animals, writing grant articles.

In conclusion, my dream career is to become a zoologist. Being a zoologist, I will work with wild cats creating a bond with them so they trust me as I them. I will be away in Africa for weeks even months at a time working hard in knowing all there is to know about wild cats.

<http://www5.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/school/cooper/>

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