

CAREER PROFILE

Wildlife Biologist and Zoologist

Zoologists and wildlife biologists study animals and their habitats to learn how living things interact with each other and the environment. They observe animal behavior, collect data, and conduct research to help protect wildlife and conserve ecosystems. Zoologists and wildlife biologists work in national parks, zoos, aquariums, government agencies, universities, environmental organizations, and research centers to solve problems related to animal health, endangered species, and habitat conservation.

► School to Career Pathway

- Earn a bachelor's degree for entry-level positions.
- Complete coursework that includes classroom, laboratory, and field experiences.
- Gain practical experience through internships, volunteer work, or other employment during college.

► Durable Skills

As a zoologist or wildlife biologist, you need:

- Attention to detail to notice changes in animal behavior or appearance.
- Critical-thinking skills to draw conclusions from experiments and observations.
- Interpersonal skills to collaborate effectively with others.
- Outdoor skills to navigate rough terrain, carry equipment over long distances, and work in remote areas.

► Paycheck Peek

\$35.03 hourly, \$72,860 annual

*Note that annual wages vary by location (state, city, or work setting)



Core Duties

Study animal behavior

Observe how animals eat, communicate, migrate, and interact with their environment to better understand their needs.

Conduct field research

Visit forests, wetlands, oceans, and other habitats to collect data on animal populations and environmental conditions.

Monitor wildlife populations

Track the number and health of animal species to identify changes and determine if conservation efforts are needed.

Analyze scientific data

Use technology and scientific methods to organize and interpret information collected during research studies.

Develop conservation plans

Create strategies to protect endangered species, restore habitats, and reduce threats to wildlife and ecosystems.



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Could This Be Your Thing?

- Do you love animals and enjoy learning about nature?
- Are you curious about animal behavior and like asking scientific questions?
- Do you enjoy observing and collecting information?
- Would you rather be outdoors than sitting inside on the computer?

Explore Similar Career Pathways

- environmental scientist and specialist
- conservation scientist

Dig Deeper Here

Find out more about all careers at: [US Bureau of Labor Statistics Student's Desk](#)

Find out more about STEM careers at: [Careers with STEM: Animals](#)

Find out more about the careers above:

- [O*NET Online: Environmental Scientist and Specialist](#)
- [O*NET Online: Conservation Scientist](#)