



## THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY



Thank you for your interest in volunteering with The Wildcat Sanctuary!

### **Mission Statement**

The Wildcat Sanctuary provides for the humane rescue and sheltering of unwanted, mistreated and privately owned wildcats. We do not buy, breed or sell animals. The Wildcat Sanctuary (TWS) is committed to public education about the captive wildlife crisis; offering veterinary training opportunities; rehabilitation of injured, sick and orphaned native wildcats; and supporting legislative solutions to the public safety and humane issues created by private ownership of wild animals.

### **Volunteering**

The first step to volunteering is completing and returning the attached Volunteer Application. The second is attending one or both orientation sessions. Upon receipt of completed Volunteer Applications, applicants will be notified of upcoming orientations in order to register.

Off-site volunteering consists of helping with fundraising, staffing off-site events and educational programs including expo booths. On-site volunteering occurs in Sandstone which is located approx 100 miles north of the Cities (1 hr 45 min) or approx 85 miles from Duluth (1 hr 20 min.) On-site responsibilities range in degree of physical difficulty, from building projects to helping maintain the grounds (i.e. mowing, raking, shoveling) and other projects. We need volunteers on weekdays as well as weekends. You can volunteer both on- and off-site.

As an accredited sanctuary/rescue organization, we are not open to the public. You must be at least 18 yrs old and have valid identification. There are different classifications of TWS Volunteers and staff will decide which level suits you best.

*FYI - Animal care is limited to TWS staff except Domestic Animal Care (DAC) which is staff-approved and requires specialized training.*

### **Orientation**

All TWS Volunteer Applicants must attend Orientation A which consists of an educational presentation about TWS, our Mission and history, our facility and residents, and our volunteer expectations. Orientation B is for volunteers who also want to work on-site at TWS and consists of explanation of our rules and regulations, the Minnesota rabies law, safety protocol, more detailed on-site volunteer information, as well as a partial work day. Orientation sessions are scheduled regularly and there is required yearly Re-Orientation for established volunteers.

Please return the completed Volunteer Application to the PO Box listed on the application or email back to [volunteer@wildcatsanctuary.org](mailto:volunteer@wildcatsanctuary.org). We look forward to receiving your application and meeting you at a future orientation session. In the meantime, please contact me if you have additional questions. Thanks!

Christine Dietsche  
Programs Coordinator  
[volunteer@wildcatsanctuary.org](mailto:volunteer@wildcatsanctuary.org)

**THE WILDCAT SANCTUARY – VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**  
**ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST BE 18 YEARS OR OLDER**

**APPLICANT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about TWS? \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER INTERESTS**

**On-site:**

- \_\_\_ Fencing/Building Enclosures
- \_\_\_ Landscaping (raking, planting)
- \_\_\_ Carpentry (perches, dens)
- \_\_\_ Equipment Maintenance (mowers, plows, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Grounds (painting, sweeping, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Other

**Off-site:**

- \_\_\_ Design (brochure, website, etc.)
- \_\_\_ Fundraising
- \_\_\_ Events/Planning
- \_\_\_ Educational Booths/Expos
- \_\_\_ Educational Lectures

**GENERAL HEALTH**

Do you have any allergies? If so, what?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any medical condition we should be aware of? If so, what?

\_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Ph: \_\_\_\_\_

**AVAILABILITY**

What days are you able to volunteer?

\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_ Sunday

\_\_\_ During the day on: (please circle) Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri

\_\_\_ During the evening on: (please circle) Mon Tues Wed Thurs Fri

Applicant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

Date application received: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form to: The Wildcat Sanctuary, PO Box 314, Sandstone MN 55072 Or email this information to: [volunteer@wildcatsanctuary.org](mailto:volunteer@wildcatsanctuary.org)

This application is designed to provide guidance to TWS volunteers. There are no contracts between TWS and its volunteers. All volunteers are “at will,” which means that they may be terminated at any time with or without cause without subjecting the organization to a claim for breach of an employment contract.

### On-Site Rules and Regulations

- Any contact between volunteers and wild animal residents is strictly prohibited. Any contact between volunteer and a wildcat is grounds for immediate and permanent dismissal from Sanctuary property.
- Volunteers must NEVER stick their fingers, hands or any other objects into enclosures. You may be volunteering on days where the permanent (and vaccinated) staff will also be working, therefore, even if you see a permanent staff member interacting with an animal, etc., this does NOT give you permission to do the same. The permanent staff works with these animals every day and is trained to handle the animals in any situation including an emergency.
- Only staff members, interns or volunteers who have completed the series of “pre-exposure” rabies vaccinations may have direct contact with hybrid cats if they are trained DAC volunteers. Proof of vaccinations must be submitted to staff and will be kept on record at the Sanctuary. Titer levels and booster records must be current and on record at the sanctuary. (Please note: “pre-exposure rabies vaccinations” does not guarantee you will have any direct responsibilities or direct contact with the hybrid cats – this will be staff approved on a case-by-case basis based on the experience and knowledge of each volunteer.)
- NEVER enter an enclosure for any reason. If you are assigned to a project that entails going into an enclosure, staff must assign it. No other person can authorize you entering into enclosures, even if the animal is contained.
- Volunteers must comply with all posted signs on the property.
- All emergencies must be reported to a permanent staff member immediately. Emergency procedures are listed throughout the property, as well as first aid kits and fire extinguishers.
- Volunteers must be scheduled to work to come on Sanctuary property and must give 48 hrs prior notice of cancelling a shift.
- Volunteers may NOT bring any guests to the Sanctuary without prior staff approval. Everyone who comes to volunteer must have completed the volunteer orientation process, including signing a Liability Release.
- Cameras and camera phones are prohibited during volunteer projects. Photos can only be taken during guided tours by staff and must be for personal use only. Photos cannot be used for commercial purposes or for individual gain. There is a detailed photo policy in Volunteer Handbook especially in regards to personal websites and/or social sites, i.e. Facebook.
- Vehicles on the property are for staff use only unless by staff permission. This includes ATVs and golf carts.
- NEVER open the front gate to let anyone on the property. There are NO exceptions. Tell the person(s) they have to wait outside the gate until staff lets them in.
- NEVER give out the Sanctuary’s street address. If you know of others who are interested in volunteering, you can have them contact us online at [wildcatsanctuary.org](http://wildcatsanctuary.org) or through the PO Box.
- NEVER give out Director Tammy Thies or other staff home or cell phone numbers or address. Anyone with questions can call 320-245-6871.
- Drugs, alcohol or other substances are not allowed on the property. Smoking is not permitted on Sanctuary grounds.

I have read and agree to the above-mentioned Rules and Regulations. Breaching any of the above may be reason for immediate and permanent dismissal.

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Signature

Date

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Print Name