

SOUTH FLORIDA WILDLIFE CENTER

WILDLIFE NURSERY INTERNSHIP CURRICULUM

Program Length: 12 Weeks

Commitment: 24 Hours Per Week (288 Hours Total)

Department: Wildlife Rehabilitation Department

Program Overview

The Wildlife Nursery Internship focuses on the care of orphaned wildlife requiring specialized feeding, developmental monitoring, and husbandry. Interns learn age-specific care techniques and the unique challenges associated with raising wildlife for eventual release.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the internship, participants will be able to:

- Identify developmental stages of orphaned wildlife
- Prepare and administer specialized feeding formulas
- Monitor growth and developmental milestones
- Maintain nursery sanitation and disease prevention protocols
- Recognize signs of illness and stress
- Document patient progress and care plans
- Understand imprint prevention and release readiness

Weekly Topics

Weeks 1–2

Nursery operations and neonatal wildlife care

Weeks 3–4

Formula preparation and feeding techniques

Weeks 5–6

Growth monitoring and developmental assessments

Weeks 7–8

Disease prevention and medication administration

Weeks 9–10

Behavioral development and enrichment

Weeks 11–12

Pre-release conditioning and final project

Internship Completion Requirement

As part of the successful completion of the South Florida Wildlife Center Wildlife Nursery Internship Program, interns must complete the following:

1. End-of-Internship Survey

Complete the official South Florida Wildlife Center End-of-Internship Survey to provide feedback regarding your internship experience and help improve future educational opportunities.

2. Final Reflection Project

Choose ONE of the following options:

Option A: Internship Reflection Blog Post

Write a 500–1,000 word blog post discussing:

- Why you chose the internship
- Experiences and skills gained during the program
- Challenges and successes encountered
- Neonatal wildlife care concepts learned
- How the experience contributed to your academic and professional goals
- Advice for future interns

OR

Option B: Professional Presentation

Prepare and deliver a 10–15 minute presentation on nursery operations, orphan care, developmental milestones, species encountered, or lessons learned throughout the internship experience.

Evaluation Criteria

Attendance and Reliability – 25%

Professionalism – 20%

Practical Skills and Participation – 35%

Final Reflection Requirement – 10%

Supervisor Evaluation – 10%