**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Do I need experience?**

No! No experience necessary. As long as you are motivated, confident, and have a genuine desire to care for animals and guests, that’s all we look for!

**Is there a cost involved?**

After a successful trial period, a $30 deposit will be collected and you will be given a Billabong t-shirt and cap for you to wear on your working days. These are yours to keep.

**What should I wear on my first day?**

Volunteers are required to wear plain-coloured trousers or shorts that are no shorter than mid-thigh. Ripped jeans, skirts, or mesh-panelled leggings are not permitted. Please wear sun safe shirts which cover shoulders to protect from the North Queensland sun.

We recommend a pair of sturdy, enclosed shoes. Leather or safety shoes such as boots are preferable as the work will involve raking, hosing etc. Due to the nature of some jobs, please wear clothing that can get dirty.

**What should I bring?**

Please bring a hat and water bottle. There are no facilities available to fill water bottles as the Billabong is running on bore water and is not to everyone’s taste. Water can be purchased from the shop should you need more.

We will provide a sandwich and a coffee/tea or slushie for lunch. All other morning tea or special requirements must be brought by the volunteer or purchased from the shop. There are fridge facilities available for use by volunteers.

**What will I be doing?**

A range of jobs to assist in the smooth running of the day;

* Habitat husbandry and maintenance – raking, scrubbing, sweeping, mulching, weeding, cobwebbing, cleaning ponds, glass, etc.
* Assisting with food preparation, including carnivores
* Making enrichment items for various animals around the park
* Assisting with handling of some animals after sign off
* Assisting rangers with tours or junior rangers’ experiences
* Feeding animals, cleaning enclosures, animal husbandry, health and welfare checks, and supervising visitors in Roo enclosures
* Some specialist tasks after volunteer experience

**Will I be handling animals?**

Handling animals is strictly prohibited until adequate training has been completed. Regular volunteers will be invited to join our strict training program which will allow for handling of lizards, snakes, handling juvenile crocodiles, dingo, and some birds. Volunteers handling animals without completing training may be asked to leave. This is to ensure the safety and welfare of our animals and staff. You will not be permitted to handle or interact with category 1 animals (elapids, crocodiles, cassowaries).

**Will volunteering lead to a job at Billabong Sanctuary?**

While occasionally, a volunteer may be employed, this is the exception rather than the rule. You should not undertake a volunteer position at Billabong Sanctuary with the expectation of employment. If you are interested in working with wildlife or within the human care industry, gaining experience through volunteering can be a great first step for your career and may help your chances of gaining employment in a similar facility.

**Is there any public transport?**

Unfortunately, Nome (where Billabong is located) does not have any regular public transport options and you will require your own transport to and from the Sanctuary. We do not recommend volunteers ride bicycles or scooters along the highway.

**Do you provide accommodation?**

Billabong does not have any accommodation facilities and is not able to provide accommodation for volunteers.

**How do I apply?**

Simply complete the survey form at the bottom of the Volunteer Opportunity page. Our Volunteer Coordinator will get in touch within a week or two for a chat.