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e-Lingua

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A Roaring Good Time Volunteering at Zoo Negara

By Nur Fatin Shahmina Binti Mohd Fauzey, Ts. Dr. Mohd Ikmal Fazlan Bin Rozli
& Ts. Dr. Adi Izhar Bin Che Ani

On June 9, 2024, a cohort from Universiti Teknologi Mara Penang Branch (UiTM CPP) engaged in the Keeperku full-day programme at Zoo Negara. The group comprised 41 students from Kelab Budi Penyayang, accompanied by Miss Nur Fatin Shahmina, Ts. Dr. Ikmal Fazlan, and Ts. Dr. Adi Izhar.

Arrival and Briefing

The participants arrived at Zoo Negara at 7:30 am, where they were greeted with a welcome note and a comprehensive safety briefing by the Education Officer. This initial interaction set a positive tone for the day and ensured that all participants were aware of the necessary safety protocols. Subsequently, the group joined other volunteers from various higher learning institutions, fostering a sense of community

Task Assignment and Group Division

Following the briefing, the participants were divided into smaller groups to facilitate effective management and engagement. Each group embarked on a guided tour of the zoo, which provided an overview of the facility and its operations. The participants were then assigned a variety of tasks, offering them invaluable learning opportunities about the behind-the-scenes work involved in zoo management. These tasks included taking care of the zoo's landscape, overseeing the care of animals, and maintaining the cleanliness of public areas.





Hands-On Experience in Animal Care

Throughout the day, the volunteers had the opportunity to engage directly in the process of animal care. They assisted in various exhibits, including the Bird Aviary, Rimba Reptilia, Mammal Kingdom, Aquarium, and Savannah Walks. This hands-on experience was instrumental in deepening their understanding of animal care practices and the complexities involved in managing a zoological park. Additionally, these activities allowed participants to connect with nature in a meaningful way, enhancing their appreciation for wildlife conservation.

Post-Task Exploration and Highlights

Upon completing their assigned tasks in the evening, the volunteers were granted free access to explore Zoo Negara. This included notable attractions such as the Giant Panda Conservation Centre, the Reptile Jungle, and the Zoo Negara Show Amphitheater. Students who completed their tasks early were particularly enthusiastic about visiting these sites. The Giant Panda Conservation Centre, showcasing the famous pandas Fu Wa and Feng Yi, was a significant highlight.

Congratulations to all participants for their dedication and enthusiasm in embracing the challenges and excitement of being a zookeeper for a day!

