



JUNIOR RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROGRAM

In recent years, the Chimfunshi Wildlife Orphanage Trust (CWOT) has evolved into a major centre for education and research. The sanctuary offers the unique opportunity for scientists and students to observe the complex social behavior of chimpanzees in large social groups in a nearly natural habitat.

The junior research program aims to support the CWOT initiative to promote an increased participation of young people in issues related to chimpanzees, wildlife and research. The organization also aims to develop and strengthen the contact with new and already engaged international stakeholders and the capacity building and empowering of local youth which can help with their future as professionals and improve the educational opportunities in Zambia.

COVID-19

The 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has deeply affected the CWOT ability to run the normal scheduled international research program for 2020, striking exactly over the busiest time of year for this educational activity that is so important for Chimfunshi. The pandemic obligated schools to close and until further notice, there is abundant youth force in need of empowerment and professionalization opportunities on sanctuary grounds, not engaged in any activity and in need of funds to continue their education process.

Research already sporadically uses local community and keepers as research assistants, CWOT feels that this could be stimulated further at this stage in support for the current crisis. As an alternative, that is both financially interesting for all involved, educational and will have a positive community impact, the institution is offering a new pilot initiative named CWOT Junior Research Assistant Program (JRAP).

CONCEPT

The initial idea is to select between 1-4 youth applicants, between 15-21 years old, dependent of how many projects are interested in this offer and their complexity during a specific timeframe from the local community that have proven to be engaged and interested the biological field to be trained as research assistants.

The junior research assistants would be available to help run part of feasible projects that mostly involve filming of specific behaviors, animals or situations, and collect simple behavioral data with the use of ZooMonitor.

The program will be overseen directly and up-close by our animal care manager, veterinarian, staff research assistant and education officer.

GOAL

Promote an educational and professionalizing opportunity and small revenue for CWOT and community.

GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

Chimfunshi follows a strict non-invasive and no contact research policy. A wide range of research topics (behavioral, social, genetics, ecological, etc.) are welcomed, but all ideas must be pre-approved by the Chimfunshi Research Advisory Board (CRAB) and follow PASA's research guidelines.

Behavioral/ ethological research that encourages non-natural behavior when animals have reached an advanced stage of rehabilitation should be discouraged. Acceptable research should involve minimal modification of animals' and staff's daily routines, and should potentially produce results which benefit conservation of the species or the project.

Research involving wild primate populations associated with sanctuaries must be non-disruptive to their social order. This includes no provision of feeding and no habituation of primates where risks from hunting exist now or may in the future.

Biological research will be conducted only in response to member facilities' animal management needs, and samples should be taken only during routine opportunistic or planned examinations.

All research involving biological sampling must have demonstrable health, conservation or genetic benefits to primate captive management and/or wild population conservation. Research cannot be exploratory nor justified on the grounds of human medical benefit.

The sanctuary must have a memorandum of understanding with laboratories and/or researchers that ensures samples and data are used ethically and according to the initial proposed research topic, and guarantees the sanctuary the right of pre-publication editorial review.

RESEARCH FEES AND SUPPORT

The researchers will be responsible after project approval and MOU signature, to provide all means (monetary support and physical apparatus) for the research to be run on grounds without their physical presence.

Participants will be paid by CWOT a stipend monthly according the worked hours/days. Fees paid by the supporter researchers will cover general managing of project, participant stipend, participant care, internet use and a general donation for the care of the chimpanzees (research subjects).

● 2020 FEES

FEES	Period		
	1 month	2 months	3 months
CHIMPANZEE RESEARCH SUPPORT PLEDGE	150 USD (Valid for 6 months)		
JRAP	10 USD/DAY	8 USD/DAY	7 USD/Day

DATA MANAGEMENT AND PROJECT CONTROL

Researchers can and are incentivized to meet, give orientations and discuss possibilities remotely with the participants via the internet. Support from the program managers will be available full time and researchers will be able to review data gathered and test images as the collection goes along to maintain the standards and needs necessary for their project.

Video images will be transferred by senior staff into supplied hard drives and kept safe until the transfer between parties is arranged.

TERMINATION

The researcher may terminate their support and interest on the data provided at any time, but is requested that at least a week of advance notice is provided.

DISPUTE RESOLUTIONS

All parties involved should agree to make efforts in good faith to resolve all disputes amicably and expeditiously between themselves.

TO APPLY

Please visit <https://chimfunshiwildlife.org/research/> and/or <https://www.chimfunshi.de/en/research-at-chimfunshi/> for more information and details of the needed project proposal to be submitted for evaluation. Please, indicate clearly that you're interested in the JRAP when submitting your application.

Your application will be reviewed by the Chimfunshi Research Advisory Board (CRAB) for feasibility, chimpanzee welfare, human and chimpanzee safety, and scientific rigor. Outside expert reviewers may be consulted for some applications. Applications materials or further questions should be submitted electronically to researchchimfunshi@gmail.com.