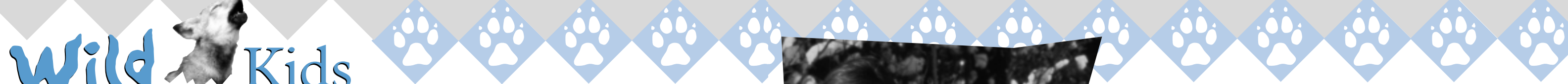


# Wild Kids



## Working for Wolves

Dear Mike,

**T**here are lots of different careers that can make a difference for wolves. Some jobs include tracking and studying wolves, some include setting policy and enforcing laws about wolves, others involve educating the public about wolves. There's no end to the possibilities!

Here's a sample list of job titles that could involve wolves:

- Captive wolf curator
- Depredation investigator
- Development director
- Endangered species coordinator
- Environmental educator
- Ethologist
- Farmer

- Field researcher
- Fund-raiser
- Fur bearer specialist
- Laboratory technician
- Lobbyist
- Legislator
- Museum curator
- Naturalist
- Novelist
- Park ranger
- Photographer
- Policy analyst
- Political activist
- Professor
- Program administrator
- Public information specialist
- Rancher

*Some veterinarians specialize in the care of wild animals.*

- Taxidermist
- Teacher
- Technical writer
- Trapper
- Veterinary technician
- Volunteer
- Wildlife biologist
- Wildlife technician
- Wildlife veterinarian

No matter what subjects you are good at in school, there may be a job you can do that involves wolves.

You might notice, though, that very few jobs are focused exclusively on wolves. Most people who deal with wolves must have a wide variety of knowledge and skills. For example, political activists must know a lot about wolves and the policies that affect them, but they also must know how government works and be able to work within that system. Photographers must be intimately familiar with wolf behavior in order to find wolves and anticipate their movements, and they must also know how to work complex camera equipment. Even the technicians who track wolves in the wild have to know about more than just wolves. They have to operate—and sometimes even fix—the different kinds of tracking devices.

Even jobs that deal mostly with animals rarely deal only with wolves. Most wildlife careers include working with many different kinds of animals.

No matter what type of job you hope to have someday, you will need to know at least something from each of the subjects you have in school. Scientists need to be good at reading and writing just as novelists need to understand science.



*Field researchers track and study wolves in the wild.*

But you don't have to wait until you get a job to help wolves. There are things you can do every day that will make life better for wolves everywhere! Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Become a member of an organization that supports wolf survival. (For information on becoming a member of the International Wolf Center, see our Web site at [www.wolf.org](http://www.wolf.org).)
- Learn as much as you can about wolves. Share what you know by giving a talk at a school, library or other venue in your area.

You can get ready now for your future career by working hard at school and by getting experience as a volunteer or an intern. Contact a zoo, animal park, nature center, park, veterinary clinic or research project near you to ask how you can help.

Watch the "Wild Kids" section in future issues of *International Wolf* magazine for features on people who do some kind of "Wolf Work." Hopefully that will help you make choices for your future. ■

• Think globally, act locally. Get involved in local environmental projects. Everything in nature is connected, so every improvement to the environment ultimately helps wolves. Reduce, reuse, recycle—in that order. The less we humans use the earth's resources, the less pressure we put on the wild species trying to survive on those same resources.

- Help preserve wild lands in wolf range, or support organizations that do.
- Organize a fund-raiser and donate the proceeds to an organization that supports wolf survival.

Good luck!

Sincerely,  
International Wolf Center

## WOLF WORK

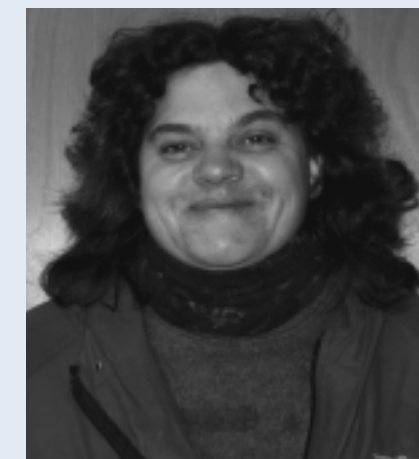
**PERSON:** Lori Schmidt

**JOB TITLE AND DESCRIPTION:** Captive Wolf Curator. Tasks include caring for a captive pack of wolves, supervising helpers, acquiring and storing food, maintaining fencing and water supply, keeping thorough records, and planning, adapting and enforcing protocols for interacting with the wolves.

**TRAINING REQUIRED:** Minimum two-year associate's degree in a natural resource/animal-related major plus several years of supervised experience.

**SKILLS NEEDED TO DO THE JOB:** Willingness to work long hours outdoors in all kinds of weather, keen observation skills to notice nuances in animal behavior, attention to detail for complete record keeping, veterinary training, problem solving, critical thinking, facility maintenance, and adherence to procedures.

**ADVICE TO KIDS:** Learn the day-to-day responsibilities of caring for another living thing, such as a pet. Practice taking full responsibility for all of your pet's needs, even when you don't feel like it or are gone for a time.



*Lori Schmidt, Wolf Curator, cares for the International Wolf Center's resident wolves.*



Pedro Ramirez, Jr.

International Wolf Center

