

Teacher Resource

GUIDE

BIRMINGHAM ZOO 2019-2020

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CAREER DAY & STEM DAY

NIGHT LIFE

OUTREACH



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INSPIRING PASSION
TO CONSERVE THE
NATURAL WORLD

DID YOU KNOW? THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO...

- ❖ Was founded in 1955 and encompasses 122 acres.
- ❖ Is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and ranks in the top 10% of animal holding facilities in the nation.
- ❖ Cares for 700+ animals of over 200 species.
- ❖ Is the only AZA accredited zoo in the state of Alabama.

TESTIMONIALS

"Check-in was very easy and I love the option to pre-pay ahead of time. Our students already had wrist bands on, which saved a lot of hassle."

- Green Valley Elementary,
May 2, 2018

"Our students LOVED the Zoo Keeper In Training program!!! They look forward to it every semester!"

- Sparkman Medical Academy,
April 20, 2018

"It took less than five minutes to get in the Zoo. All the teachers in my group give their experience an A+. See you all next year."

- Hayes K8 School, April 11, 2018



PLAN YOUR TRIP!

WWW.BIRMINGHAMZOO.COM | 205.870.5230

RESERVATIONS

Reservations can be made by visiting the Zoo's website and filling out the Group Reservation Request Form www.birminghamzoo.com/visitor-info/group-reservations/group-reservation-request/ or by calling 205.870.5230.

Choose an education program to maximize the learning!

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Pre-pay and pick up your wristbands prior to your visit (or we will mail them to you) and make getting your group into the Zoo a real BREEZE!

ADMISSION

CATEGORY	PRICE
Student Admission	\$9 per student
Chaperone/Adult Guest Admission*	\$13 parent chaperone
Teachers	1 free teacher per 10 paying students (up to 10 free teachers)
Bus Drivers/School Nurses	Bus Drivers and School Nurses are always free
Unlimited Ride Wristband**	\$6 per person (in addition to admission)

*Chaperones receive discounted rate **only** if included with the school's payment

**Includes train, carousel, and slide

EDUCATION PROGRAMS*

CATEGORY	PRICE
Discovery Programs	\$2 per student
Field Experiences	\$4 per student
Zoo Labs	\$6 per student
Zoo to You-Outreach	See page 10 for pricing details

*All education programs are in addition to admission

**ZOO HOURS: 9AM- 5PM RAIN OR SHINE!
WE ARE CLOSED THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Title I schools discount available
\$6 for admission or
\$11 for admission + unlimited ride wristband.**

SENSORY INITIATIVE



Raising Awareness - Increasing Accessibility - Promoting Inclusive Experience

The Birmingham Zoo is sensory inclusive! In an effort to make the Zoo more welcoming and accessible to individuals with sensory processing needs, we have partnered with KultureCity to develop the Sensory Inclusive Zoo Initiative. To prepare for your visit, please see the accessibility page of our website for a social story, Zoo map and an overview of our initiative. Look for signs with this logo throughout the Zoo and on the map to identify Quiet Zones, Headphone Zones and locations where weighted lap pads are available for use. A limited number of Sensory Bags are also available for checkout on a first come, first served basis in the First Aid Office. These bags contain noise reducing headphones, fidget toys and other resources.

Helpful Links:

Accessibility Page - www.birminghamzoo.com/visitor-info/accessibility/#sensory

Social Story - www.birminghamzoo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/kc-bhamzoo-final.pdf

Zoo Map - www.birminghamzoo.com/visitor-info/zoo-map/



WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO

CONSTRUCTION/RENEW THE ZOO

New and exciting things are coming to the Birmingham Zoo! Our new entrance will open for the 2019-2020 school year. This space will contain the new Altec-Styslinger Learning Center and new gift shop. As we continue to grow and expand, there will be some construction on Zoo grounds. While some pathways may be rerouted, animal habitats will be accessible for viewing.

NEW GROUPS/FIELD TRIP ENTRANCE

Beginning Fall 2019, school groups will have their own designated entrance into the Birmingham Zoo. This new entrance gives groups the potential for quicker and more efficient experience as students and teachers will not have to share space with general admission when they enter the Zoo.





SPECIAL EVENT DAYS

CAREER DAY AT THE ZOO

Thursday, March 19, 2020 | 10:00AM - 1:00PM

Cost: \$5 in addition to Zoo Admission

Recommended for middle and high school students

*Please indicate when you register that you are interested in Career Day programming.

Skills, experience, passion and attitude! Do you have what it takes to work at the Zoo? Join us and find out! Bring your students to this unique event and they will have the opportunity to meet a variety of staff who make the Zoo run smoothly each and every day. What does it take to ensure the Zoo is ready to open, the animals are well cared for and our guests are safe and have a great experience? All of this and more will be answered throughout the day at designated stations and a career expo.

STEM DAY AT THE ZOO

Tuesday, May 5, 2020 | 10:00AM-1:00PM

Join us for STEM DAY at the Birmingham Zoo! This is a day to engage in activities involving science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) throughout the Zoo. Visit us on this day and participate in our STEM Stations located throughout the Zoo. Each station will focus on a specific STEM letter and will feature hands-on, minds-on activities for students. Free with admission to the Zoo.

JUST FOR TEACHERS

TEACHER'S NIGHT AT THE ZOO

Tuesday, September 3, 2019 | 5:30PM - 8:00PM

Enjoy a night out at the Zoo designed just for educators! This one of a kind evening will feature ambassador animals, examples of new and improved program opportunities, a special keeper chat, door prizes and more! STIPD credit available. Food and drinks will be provided. For more information please contact education@birminghamzoo.com or call 205.397.3877.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES FOR EDUCATORS

Please check our website for dates and more details or contact the Education department at education@birminghamzoo.com.

Integrated STEM 1.0	October 25, 9am-3pm
Evolution for Educators	November 15, 8am-3pm
Integrated STEM 2.0	Spring 2020
Nature Play for Educators	Spring 2020
Conservation Connections	Summer 2020
STEM Series Workshops	Summer 2020

DISCOVERY KITS

The Birmingham Zoo has Discovery Kits available to educators for FREE! These kits include biofacts (skulls, pelts, eggs, feathers) and other items to enhance your lessons. Items are available for up to two weeks. To see our available collection, please go to www.birminghamzoo.com/education/teachers-lounge/

Contact the Education Department at education@birminghamzoo.com or 205.397.3877 to schedule an appointment.

NEW! INQUIRY GUIDES

Use our Inquiry Guides to **maximize** the learning during your field trip! These guides provide structure to your visit, provide background information to chaperones and enhance student learning at various habitats throughout the Zoo. Extension activities included. To download these, please visit www.birminghamzoo.com/education/teachers-resources/#ft

COMING SOON! CLASSROOM EXTENSIONS

Use these extensions to prepare your class before your visit or for follow up once you've returned to the classroom. Each classroom extension is specific to a reserved Field Experience, Zoo Lab or Discovery Program.





FIELD EXPERIENCES

(ALL GRADES)

Field Experiences are designed to engage your students while observing our animals out in the Zoo. Think of it like a personal safari. An educator will lead your group to specific habitats and guide them in making observations, asking questions and creating connections to their world. Choose one of the programs listed below and we will adapt it to your age group.

Pre-K - 2nd programs are 30 minutes in length, all other grades are 45 minutes.
ALL FIELD EXPERIENCES ARE AN ADDITIONAL \$4 PER STUDENT
Maximum Capacity 25. Minimum 10.

WE'RE GOING ON A BEAR HUNT! (SUGGESTED PRE-K - K GROUPS)

We're going on a bear hunt! Going to catch a big one! I'm not scared! Are you? Students will participate in an interactive story, touch a bear pelt and explore the bear habitat.

WILD FOR ALABAMA

Alabama is one of the most biologically diverse states in the country and even the world! Even in the busy city we are surrounded by—and a part of—natural ecosystems. We will explore the Alabama Wilds Trail, visit some of the animals that make Alabama unique and discuss the importance of protecting the diversity of our wildlife.

ADAPTATIONS, BEHAVIORS AND HABITATS

Every animal has something that makes them unique and allows them to survive in their environment. We will make observations and engage in discussion at 3 habitats within the Zoo. **Choose from one of the following:**

• SURVIVING THE SAVANNA

The African Savanna presents many challenges to the animals that live there, including the largest land animal on the planet, the African Elephant. What adaptations are essential to survival in this ecosystem? Using our powers of observation and asking questions we will discover adaptions that are essential for survival among animals in our Trails of Africa habitat.

• FEATHERS AND FLIGHT

All over the planet birds are on the move! This program will focus on basic avian biology, conservation and natural history of some local and exotic birds found right here at the Birmingham Zoo.

• PREDATOR VS. PREY

For every successful predator, there is a prey with its own defensive strategies to survive. As we observe a predator, a prey and an animal that is both, we will compare characteristics and adaptations that allow them to survive in their environment.

ANIMALS OF CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA (6TH - 12TH GRADE)

With A Spanish Vocabulary Option

Bring your Spanish Class or Club to the Zoo for a special experience focusing on animals of Central and South America. An educator will lead your students on a guided tour to some of our animals who call Central and South America and Mexico home. Vocabulary words and discussion points used during your visit will be provided for you to use in your classroom.

ZOO LABS

NEW NAME - SAME
GREAT PROGRAMS
(7TH - 12TH GRADE)

A student in a Zoo Lab experience will go beyond simply looking at the animals and will learn to make in-depth observations and develop questions, collect data and analyze results, and learn the important role of zoos in terms of conservation and ethics. Zoo Lab is experiential learning at its best!

ALL ZOO LAB CLASSES ARE AN ADDITIONAL \$6 PER STUDENT
Maximum Capacity 25. Minimum 10. All Zoo Labs are 2 hours in length.

ZOO KEEPER IN TRAINING

This class will focus on three areas of the zoo keeper profession including research, training and enrichment. Students will gain an understanding of the hard work that goes on behind-the-scenes at the Zoo and will leave with a new perspective on the role zoos play in the conservation of species across the planet.

THE ROLE OF GENETICS IN THE MODERN ZOO

Why do we have zoos? They not only provide a fun place to see animals, but they also work to protect endangered species through the help of special programs. While studying genetics, biodiversity, reproduction, endangered species and habitats, students will become familiar with the Species Survival Plan program (SSP). The SSP works to preserve genetic biodiversity in zoos and aquariums. Explore the Zoo and learn which animals have an SSP and why!

ELEPHANT OBSERVATION AND RESEARCH

The African bull (male) elephant is the largest land mammal alive today. In addition to their impressive size, elephants have amazing adaptations that help them survive in their ecosystem. Students will apply their knowledge to real world scientific issues and learn how scientists are contributing to the conservation of African elephants and their habitats.

ZOO ENGINEERS

Discover what it takes to engineer a modern zoo! Students will apply important science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) concepts and 21st Century Skills to real world situations using the Birmingham Zoo as a context. Students are given a set of guidelines and then challenged to design a habitat for an animal here at the Birmingham Zoo. They will become engineers and problem solvers just like real zoo keepers, habitat designers and conservationists.





DISCOVERY PROGRAMS

All Discovery Programs are an additional \$2 per student

Pre K -1st grade programs are 30 minutes in length

All others are 45 minutes

Max Capacity 200. Minimum 25.

FUR, FEATHER, SHELL

Why do animals have fur, feathers or shells? Learn about the importance of animal coverings and discover some of the differences between mammals, birds and reptiles.

Recommended for Pre K-1st grade.

ALABAMINALS

Do you know about the amazing animals right here in your backyard? This program features live animals native to Alabama and can include birds, mammals and reptiles. Alabaminals focuses on biodiversity, backyard ecology, and protection of our local environment.

Adaptable to all grades.

ZOO-PER HEROES

Zoo-per strength, Zoo-per speed and Zoo-per senses! Many of our favorite superheroes have powers inspired by the most amazing Zoo-per heroes of the animal kingdom. In this program we will explore the real-life super abilities of some of our favorite animals.

Adaptable to all grades.

THE SEEDY SIDE OF ANIMALS

Animals play an important role in the lives of many plants. Animals on the move can carry seeds on their fur or in their digestive system to ensure the new plant has a better chance for survival. Explore this unique relationship and meet some of our favorite seed transporters at the Zoo.

Recommended for 2nd-5th grade.

CHANGING WORLD, CHANGING SPECIES

Our world is always changing, and all living things must adapt in order to survive. Recently, human impacts have begun influencing physical and behavioral changes in certain animal populations. Students will discuss species that are quickly adapting to the changes in our modern world, species that may not be adapting quickly enough, and what they can do to help.

Recommended for 6th-12th grades.



NIGHTLIFE

ZOOSNOOZE

Price: \$42 per person

Grades 1st-12th

This overnight program presents a fantastic combination of adventure and learning. ZooSnoozes can be tailored for groups as an academic program that allows school groups to experience the nocturnal side of the Birmingham Zoo. For school groups, one teacher is admitted free with every 10 students.

TWILIGHT TOUR

Price: \$25 per person

Grades 1st-12th

This evening program offers an intriguing view of the Birmingham Zoo's night life. Twilight Tours offer the evening fun of a ZooSnooze program without staying the night. Twilight Tours can be tailored specifically for school groups.

All Nightlife Programs include:

- Educational activities
- Nocturnal-focused tour of the Birmingham Zoo
- Carousel rides

Premium experiences, such as a live animal demonstration, can be added to your Nightlife program for an additional \$2 per person.

In the morning ZooSnooze participants will receive a hearty breakfast before spending the day in the Zoo following the program.

Nightlife programs require a minimum of 40 participants. A flat rate is available for groups of less than 40.





OUTREACH

ZOO TO YOU

Looking to add something unique to your classroom or event? We offer a variety of standards based program options, biological artifacts and ambassador animals sure to meet your needs.

Programs range from 30-45 minutes in length.

We can travel up to 50 miles from the Zoo and have a 3 hour round-trip time limit.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Classroom Programs

PRICE

Up to 30 Students - \$150
Each Additional Program - \$125

Assembly Style Programs

Up to 120 students - \$300
Each Additional Program - \$250

Career Days/Festivals

First Hour - \$200
Second Hour - \$150



OUTREACH

ZOO TO YOU CLASSROOM PROGRAMS

Pre K-K

Fur, Feather, Shell

Why do animals have fur, feathers or shells? Learn about the importance of animal coverings and discover some of the differences between mammals, birds and reptiles.

1st-3rd

Dirty Jobs

Explore the dirtiest jobs in the food chain—decomposers and scavengers! Learn about some of the animals who fill these important and often disgusting roles and why they are necessary to a healthy environment.

3rd-5th

Adaptation Engineers

Students will create new species of animals to live on future planets. Using their knowledge of adaptations, they will design animals that will be perfectly suited to this new environment.

6th-12th

Biomimicry-Inspired By Nature

Discover how scientists and engineers work together and learn from nature to solve common human problems through the process of biomimicry.

Skull Skills

What can you tell about an animal by looking at its skull? Through an examination of animal skulls and teeth, students will understand what and how animals eat and what senses they rely on for obtaining food.

ASSEMBLY PROGRAMS

ALL GRADES (can also be classroom program)

Animal Encounters

Zoo Staff will bring up to 3 animals to share with your group. We will discuss their unique adaptations and other features that make them special.

Alabaminals

Alabama is known for its diversity of ecosystems and of the many different types of animals that live here. We will bring up to 3 animals that call Alabama home and showcase what makes them and their ecosystem special.

Fear to Fascination

Even the less cute and cuddly animals have an important role to play in a healthy planet. We will dispel common myths and turn fear to fascination!



FIELD TRIP FAQ'S

SCEDULING:

How far in advance should I make my reservations? Educational programs, activities and Zoo lunches are limited, so please book your trip at least 14 days in advance to accommodate your class needs. Reservations are made by visiting the Zoo's website and filling out the Group Reservation Request Form.

www.birminghamzoo.com/visitor-info/group-reservations/group-reservation-request/

What is the minimum number of people to be considered a group? You need at least 15 people to be considered a group. We do make exceptions for special needs groups.

What do we do if it rains on the day of our visit? The Zoo is open rain or shine. In the event that there is inclement weather on the morning of your visit, or if inclement weather is forecasted, we are more than happy to reschedule your group for a later date.

How long should we plan to stay? To walk and visit the various habitats takes approximately 2 hours. Please note this does not include lunch, activities or educational programs.

Are there classes available to supplement our field trip? Refer to page 5 for a list of education programs. Please call the Education Department at 205.397.3877 for additional information.

PLANNING FOR LUNCH:

Option 1 - Pre-order lunch through our restaurant. Group meals provide a selection of pre-made lunches that can be pre-ordered and picked up at a designated time. Submission must be made no later than 7 days before your trip. Final lunch numbers are due 72 hours before your trip, due to a limited availability of group lunch times. Lunch instructions will be provided upon arrival. Pre-ordered lunches are recommended for elementary aged children only.

Option 2 - Bring your lunch and eat outside the Zoo. The Birmingham Zoo has two picnic areas available on a first come, first served basis. If your group would prefer to bring your lunch, you may leave your coolers on the bus or in vehicles until your group gathers to eat. Our covered pavilion and playground area are located on the far side of the parking lot near the exit. We also have several picnic tables located beside our new Groups entrance. Guests are able to re-enter the park with their wristbands after lunch.

Option 3 - Bring your lunch and eat on Henley Park Event Lawn. Groups can gather to eat on Henley Park Event Lawn in the middle of the Zoo. Please coordinate with your parents and teachers to bring in coolers and lunches and meet on the lawn at a time you designate. You will be responsible for transporting anything you need in and out of the Zoo, as well as disposing of all trash. Please be aware that the availability of Henley Park Event Lawn is weather dependent and not guaranteed. If Henley Park Event Lawn is unavailable, other locations inside the Zoo could possibly be available as dining locations for small to medium sized groups.

DAY OF EXPECTATIONS:

What do we do when we arrive? Follow the map provided in your reminder e-mail. Buses should follow the signs directing them to bus parking at the Groups/Field Trip Entrance, rather than going to the main entrance. On busy groups days, buses may be greeted by a Zoo representative for instructions. During this time, the trip's lead teacher should get off the bus to take care of payment or pick up wristbands at the Groups booth if you haven't already pre-paid. Your group will remain on the bus while Zoo staff share Zoo rules and fun daily activities. Once everyone has on their wristbands, students will be directed off the bus to the parent/chaperone waiting area where you can divide up into groups and enter the Zoo with your chaperones. It is recommended that wristbands be applied while students are on the bus.

Where do I pick up my pre-ordered lunches? If you pre-ordered lunch, it may be picked up at Wild Burger restaurant across from the elephant habitat at your scheduled time. As a public facility with an unpredictable number of visitors, we are not able to take reservations for tables. Tables are first come, first served.

Some of my parent chaperones have memberships. Where do they enter? Parents with memberships can enter at our new front entrance. We will not be able to check in members or sell general admission tickets at the Groups entrance.

A parent decided to accompany our class at the last minute. Will they get the group rate? Unfortunately, no. If the parents are not included in the school's payment, they will not be able to take advantage of the group rate. Those parents will need to go to our new entrance to purchase a regular price admission ticket and enter there. These parents may also choose to purchase tickets online, but will still have to enter through the main front entrance.

If I bought too many wristbands or a child/parent couldn't make it can I get a refund?
Please visit the Groups tab on the Birmingham Zoo's website for the refund policy. www.birminghamzoo.com/visitor-info/group-reservations/

A parent arrives after our group has already entered the Zoo. Can the Zoo staff assist them in finding us? Unfortunately, no. We are unable to track your group once you have entered the Zoo. Please make certain that parents and chaperones have a means of contacting you in case they need to find your location inside the Zoo on the day of your trip.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES!

SEP
3
2019

TEACHER'S NIGHT AT THE ZOO
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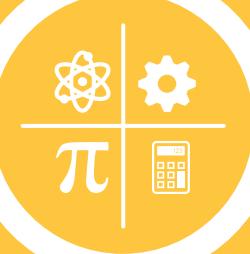


CAREER DAY AT THE ZOO
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19
2020

MAY
5
2020

STEM DAY AT THE ZOO
PAGE 4



On these special days, there will be activity stations and unique opportunities that you can't experience on other days throughout the year. Please visit www.birminghamzoo.com/education for more details and to reserve your spot today! **For more specific information please contact the Education Department at education@birminghamzoo.com**

SCHOOL PROGRAMS PAYMENT POLICY

All Field Experiences, Discovery Programs and Zoo Labs must be paid for in full two weeks before their scheduled date. Programs that are not paid by this time will be canceled. If scheduling a program that is less than two weeks away, program must be paid for in full at the time of booking. Program payments are non-refundable*.

FAQs

What if my student count changes the day of my scheduled program?

If student count increases, the additional students will have to pay the program fee upon arrival. If student count decreases, the pre-paid program fee is nonrefundable.

What if there is severe weather the day of my scheduled program?

The Birmingham Zoo follows Mountain Brook City Schools for school closings due to weather events. If Mountain Brook City Schools have cancelled classes or have a delayed start time that would coincide with the time of your scheduled program, or if your school has a delayed start, has closed, or the school superintendent has prohibited buses from traveling due to unsafe driving conditions, the Birmingham Zoo will work with you to reschedule your program to another date. If your program cannot be rescheduled, Birmingham Zoo will refund your program fee. Otherwise, programs are held rain or shine.

Refunds take two weeks for processing and will be sent to the school/organization's address on the original check or address given on the group reservation form.

What if we arrive after the start of our scheduled program?

Staff begin programs promptly at the scheduled time. Programs could be canceled without a refund if students are not at designated meeting location at the scheduled time. The Education Department will work to accommodate late arrivals (up to 15 minutes) to the best of their ability, but cannot guarantee this due to staffing and other programming.

Due to time constraints, any accommodated late arrivals may have a shortened/condensed program.

What if we want to reschedule a program we have already paid for?

The Education Department will work to accommodate rescheduling, however, if the Zoo schedule is booked and your program cannot be rescheduled, payment will not be refunded.

*see FAQs regarding severe weather.

In order to reserve your date, please sign this policy and return by _____

Teacher Signature and contact number

Date

Bookkeeper Signature and contact number

Date

