Zoo Education Programs!

Pick <u>one from each column</u> for your students' zoo program and use the link below to request a program:

<u>Lesson Theme</u>: All of these programs can be modified to any grade level and support your classroom learning.	<u>Animal Experiences:</u> Meet animal ambassador up close or visit with an on-habitat animal from public side	<u>Where?</u>
Critter Classification – how do we sort animals into different groups? This is great for elementary groups (fur, feathers, scales) to older students (kingdoms).	**African Animals**– Your program may include: ball python, pancake tortoise, rhino, giraffe, hippos	**On Grounds** – here at the zoo in one of our indoor classrooms or out in one of our zoo pavilions, we are here rain or shine!
Feeding Lab/What animals eat? – we will go over what animals eat here at the zoo, in their wild homes, and can include a virtual tour of our commissary! Covers vocabulary like herbivore, omnivore, & carnivore.	**Asian Animals**– Your program may include: komodo dragon, malayan tapir, clouded leopards, aviary with Asian birds	**Virtually** – we can coordinate with you to set up a Zoom call!
Habitats – we will cover parts of a habitat and important features of our animals wild habitats!	**North & South American Animals**– Your program may include: screech owl, opossum, snapping turtle, alligator, bald eagle, broad-nosed caiman	**At your facility/campus** – we will follow up with any details on our visit to your campus
Food Web/Chain – using macroinvertebrates found in Ellen Trout Lake, we will create a food chain/web. For older students, we can introduce how food webs can show the health of an ecosystem!	**Arboreal animals**– Learn all about the creatures who make the trees their home! Your program may include: screech owl, opossum, aviary birds, clouded leopard, sloths & tamarins	
Modern Zoos – we will cover the goals of modern zoos (recretaions, education, research, and conservation) and how we apply them each here at the Ellen Trout Zoo!	**Water is our home**– Visit with animals who depend on water to survive! Your program may include: broad-nosed caiman, hippo, alligator, snapping turtle, flamingo, waterfowl, otter	
How do animals survive? – we will talk about the structure & functions (adaptations) of lots of different animals to help them survive!	***Please be understanding and flexible if we need to change animals as needed.** ***<u>Time Frame</u>: **1 hour** (30 minutes for the lesson and 30 minutes for the animal experience)	

How to book a program:

Please fill out the program request form online to get started:

https://forms.gle/VZuvV98nunxgeJxR9

We will reach out to you to confirm your lesson, animal experience, date, and time!

If you have a prescheduled education program:

- Student must be 8 years old or in a second grade class & everyone <u>must wear closed-toed shoes</u> to go behind the scenes.
- Once programs are in progress we cannot admit latecomers, it can be a safety issue.
- We usually do not allow students to bring cameras but we do allow for teachers and/or chaperones to take pictures. Please ask permission before taking photos in behind-the-scenes areas.
- Due to the limited space in our classroom and behind the scenes areas, chaperones and siblings/strollers may not be allowed.

On the day of your education program:

Come through the <u>normal zoo entrance</u> to pay your admissions fee with your students. An education staff member will meet your group at the entrance! There are restrooms by the entrance.

Dear Teacher,

We are so excited that you and your class are coming out to visit the zoo!

We get over 130,000 visitors each year... so here is a checklist of tips and information to help you have a successful field trip and education program!

What you will need on the day of your trip:

☐ The exact **number of students, bus drivers, school staff, and teachers** <u>your school is paying to enter the zoo</u>. Fill out the bottom portion and cut it off to bring when you visit!

- ➔ Our admissions staff needs an accurate account of visitors each day. Admissions fees are due on the day of your visit.
- ➔ Admissions pricing: School rate – $2.00 for any student or adult admission <u>paid for by the school</u>, including teachers, bus drivers, school staff, etc. (this pricing is discounted pricing from a normal zoo visitor)
- ➔ Homeschool groups recieve the group rate of 50% off admissions fees

☐ Advise parents/chaperones (the school is not paying for) to tell the admissions clerk that they are attending with your "(name of school)'s field trip", and they will receive 50 % off their admission fee for accompanying the trip!
   Siblings attending with discounted parents also get 50% off (ages 4 and up) & Children 3 and under are free

☐ The Z&OO Railroad train is outside the zoo in the park and is separate from the zoo. To set up a train ride for your class and current pricing, you can visit: www.lufkinlions.org

☐ Buses must park in the EXPO parking lot next to the zoo. Ask the admission clerk for more information.

TIPS:

***Plan to bring your lunch?! You can reserve a pavilion in Ellen Trout Parl by calling the admissions window at (936) 633-0399. If a pavilion is not available, there is plenty of space out in Ellen Trout Park including two playgrounds, restrooms, and picnic tables.

***We recommend closed-toed shoes when visiting the zoo

***Review our <u>Zoo Manners</u> with staff, parents, and students<u>:</u>
   Please do not feed our animals – it could harm them. Our animals are on special diets.
   Please walk within the designated areas and do not cross barriers or reach across them.
   No running, bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, or skates.
   Please do not touch, chase or feed the peafowl.
   In case of an emergency, find the closest zoo employee or go to the admissions window
   We prefer classes to walk around with a 10-student to 1 teacher/chaperone ratio to help avoid crowding at exhibits.

Hope you have a Wild Time! – Etz Staff!

- -

Please give this to the staff at the admissions window!

Date of Visit: _____

School Name:_____

Contact Person:_____

UPDATED July 2023

Total # of <u>students</u> the school is paying for: _____
($2.00 each)

Total # of <u>adults</u> the school is paying for: _____
(including teachers, bus drivers, and chaperones)   ($2.00 each)

Total number of <u>tickets</u> paid for by school: _____

Total amount paid for by school: $ _____