



VIRGINIA ZOOLOGICAL PARK

# FIELD TRIP PACKET

3500 Granby St,  
Norfolk, VA 23504  
[virginiazoo.org](http://virginiazoo.org)

# MISSION STATEMENT



## A note to educators

Welcome to a great year ahead and thank you for choosing the Virginia Zoo. Here at the Virginia Zoo, we are committed to engaging our community to take action to save the world's wildlife and their ecosystems because we envision a world where everyone values wildlife and their environment. And we know that as educators, you all are the backbone of our community and integral to helping us educate our youth to build a better future. As such, our diverse collection of programs is designed with you and your students in mind. All programs are connected to the Virginia Standards of Learning and include teacher resources to support student learning both before and after your visit.

Whether you choose to come to us for an Explore Tour or Zoo Edventure program, walk through the Zoo on your own, have us bring the Zoo to You, or connect virtually, we are here to support you and your students. On that note, we are proud to continue our Title 1 discounted pricing this year, making our education programs affordable to all. We also offer digital resources for your Zoo trip. Be sure to check out our website for that along with our program offerings.

And while we welcome you and your students to the Zoo, we want to ensure you know everything you do is appreciated. That's why we have a special discount on tickets and Memberships every day just for teachers.

We wish you a wonderful year ahead and hope that you will make the Virginia Zoo part of your learning experience. See you at the Zoo!

Michelle Lewis  
Curator of Education



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# ONSITE PROGRAM PRICING

Program Type	Pricing	Title 1	Minimum Cost	Max Group Size	For more information
Self-Guided Field Trip	\$11 per student	\$6 per student	10 students	200	<b>Page 8</b>
Auditorium	\$12 per student	\$6 per student	\$350	200 individuals in spring-fall; 95 individuals in winter	<b>Page 9</b>
Close Encounter	\$12 per student		\$350	30 students + 3 chaperones	<b>Pages 10 - 13</b>
Zoo Lab	\$12 per student		\$180	30 students + 3 chaperones	<b>Page 14</b>
Guided Tour	\$12 per student		\$180	15 students + 2 chaperones	<b>Page 15</b>
Starry Safari			\$600 (flat)	35 individuals, must have 1 chaperone per 10 students	<b>Page 18</b>

Included with all onsite programs:

- Free Zoo Admission per person covered in program/tour fee
- 1 Free Chaperone for every 10 students
- Digital Learning Resources



<https://www.explorableplaces.com/places/virginia-zoo>



# ZOO-TO-YOU PROGRAM PRICING

\*50% discount off consecutive Zoo-to-You auditorium and close encounter programs. Discount will apply to lowest priced program(s). Discount cannot be applied to Zoo Lab or Virtual Programs.

## Travel Fees (calculated by miles from Zoo)

\*\*Travel is free for any program sites in Norfolk

- Up to 15 miles: \$25
- 16-30 miles: \$30
- 31-45 \$35
- 46-60 \$45



<https://www.explorableplaces.com/places/virginia-zoo>

Program Type	Theme	Set Fee	Group Size	For more information
Auditorium	World Traveler	\$385*	Unlimited, as long as we fit into program space	Page 9
Auditorium	Zoo Edventure	\$400*	Unlimited, as long as we fit into program space	Page 9
Close Encounter	All	\$350*	30 students + 3 chaperones	Pages 10 - 13
Zoo Lab	All	\$180	30 students + 3 chaperones	Page 14
Virtual	All	\$175	Unlimited	Pages 16 + 17

# FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

Email signed forms to  
[vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov](mailto:vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov)

## ALL TEACHERS MUST READ AND SIGN THIS FORM.

- We acknowledge that the Zoo opens at 9:30 am and closes at 4:00 pm.
- We acknowledge that we need to arrive at least 15 minutes before our scheduled program.
- We acknowledge that school check-in will be held at the front of the Zoo entrance gate near the giraffe statue.
- We acknowledge that we will wait on the bus until a Virginia Zoo staff member tells us to disembark off the bus.
- We acknowledge that full payment is due before your group enters the Zoo.
- We acknowledge that the field trip discount is only available by making a reservation online. No exceptions.
- We acknowledge that we need to have a finalized head count of all individuals attending the field trip to the Program Reservations Specialist 24 hours before a scheduled field trip date.
- We acknowledge that we will enter through the entrance gates in an organized manner.
- We acknowledge that all students under the age of 16 are required to always have an adult with them. Students not accompanied by an adult will be escorted to the Zoo membership office and the Lead teacher will be notified for pick up.
- We acknowledge that due to the nature of the Zoo's programs, only the preapproved number of participants and chaperones will be able to enter the program. Pre-approved individuals will receive a wristband as their ticket into the program.
- We acknowledge that a lunch reservation is required to eat inside the Zoo, with a 10-day notice before the visit, based on availability. We will give the Zoo a 72-hour notice if we wish to cancel.
- We acknowledge that we are responsible for informing our chaperones of our field trip itinerary.
- We acknowledge that if our reservation must be rescheduled for any reason, the Program Reservations Specialist must be contacted at least 3 weeks prior to the originally scheduled reservation. Reschedule requests are subject to the availability of the new date requested.
- We acknowledge that the Zoo is open rain or shine and will dress accordingly.
- We understand the Zoo cannot page individuals or groups.
- We acknowledge the Zoo Policies: As a guest, we agree to comply with the Virginia Zoo's code of conduct and safety rules and heed all warnings. Please see the code of conduct at [www.virginiazoo.org/conduct/](http://www.virginiazoo.org/conduct/)

We have read and agree to the above guidelines.

Signature:

School Name:

Date of Field Trip(s):



# SELF-GUIDED ADMISSION

Explore the Virginia Zoo at your own pace! Schedule a self-guided field trip to receive the discounted group rate.

## TITLE 1 ADMISSION

The Virginia Zoo provides discounted tickets for all Title 1 schools. Tickets are \$6 per student for Self-Guided and Auditorium Programs.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMISSION

The Virginia Zoo provides all ADA individuals with FREE admission. Each individual gets in one FREE adult chaperone. Please email [vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov](mailto:vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov) to schedule a field trip. This is only for Self-Guided Field Trips.

## HOMESCHOOL GROUP ADMISSION

Homeschool groups must make a reservation through our reservation portal to receive the discounted ticket price.





# AUDITORIUM PROGRAMS

Bring the whole school together for an auditorium program! Each presentation includes at least 3 animal ambassadors and can be booked for up to 200 people. You will receive digital learning resources for you and your students.

**These programs can be offered at the Zoo and at your school.**



## **World Traveler** (PreK-2nd Grade)

Join us on a global animal adventure! During this 30-minute program, your explorers will meet 3 of our animal ambassadors from different continents and diverse habitats. Your students will learn how animals adapt to their environments and how we can help their populations thrive.

VA Science SOLs: K.7a; 1.5a,b; 2.5b

NC Essential Standards (Science): K.L.1.2, 1.L.1.1, 1.L.1.2, 1.L.2.2

## **Zoo Edventure** (K-12th Grade)

Bring your whole group together to meet some of our animal ambassadors! During this 45-minute program, students will meet 4 animals and discover how their unique adaptations help them survive in their habitats.

VA Science SOLs: K.7a; 1.5a,b; 2.5b; 3.4a,b; 4.2b; 4.3c; LS.6d; LS.7b; BIO.7c

NC Essential Standards (Science): K.L.1.2, 1.L.1.1, 1.L.1.2, 1.L.2.2, 4.L.1.2, 4.L.1.4, 5.L.2, 8.L.3, Bio.2.1.2



# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Take a closer look! These programs provide a more in-depth learning experience for up to 30 participants. Throughout each program, participants will meet 3 animal ambassadors.

**These programs can be offered at the Zoo and at your school.**

## Early Childhood (ages 3-5)

### Animals on the Move

Slither, crawl, hop, run, and wiggle! Join us as we learn how animals get from one place to another. Students will be able to observe how different animals move and try out those movements themselves! This program includes the opportunity for students to meet 3 different animal ambassadors.

VA ELDS: HPD2.1

### Colorful Animal Kingdom

The animal kingdom is a colorful place! Explore how animals use colors to survive. Students will have the chance to meet 3 different animals and investigate their colors up close!

VA ELDS: CD3.4

### One, Two, Who's at the Zoo?

Three, four, let's learn some more! Can you count how many ears an animal has? How many zebras live in a herd? Practice your counting skills as we meet 3 different animal ambassadors.

VA ELDS: CD3.1

## Kindergarten-2nd Grade

### Animal Groups

Is it a mammal, reptile, bird, or amphibian? During this 30-minute program, students will meet 3 different animal ambassadors and learn how we use their traits to sort them into groups.

VA Science SOLs: K.7a,b; 1.5; 2.5a,b;

### Habitats

What makes a habitat a home? During this program, students will discover how each animal is adapted for a specific habitat that meets all of its basic needs.

VA Science SOLs: K.6a,b; K.7a; K.11c; 1.5a,b; 2.5a-c

NC Essential Standards (Science): K.L.1.2, 1.L.1.1, 1.L.1.2, 1.L.2.2

# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

## CONTINUED

### Kindergarten-2nd Grade, continued

#### Life Cycles

Which animals lay eggs, and which animals give live birth? Which animals care for their young? Join us as we explore the different life cycles found within the animal kingdom.

VA Science SOLs: K.7; 1.5; 2.4a NC Essential Standards (Science): 2.L.1.1, 2.L.1.2

#### Senses

What's that sound? During this program, students will investigate how animals use senses to interact with their environment.

VA Science SOLs: K.5a,b, 1.5b

#### Wild About Weather

Have you ever wondered how animals overcome the wildest of weather conditions? Join us as we investigate how weather and seasonal changes impact habitats and the things that live there.

VA Science SOLs: K.9a,b; 1.7; 2.7a

NC Essential Standards (Science): K.E.1, 2.E.1

### 3rd-5th Grade

#### Catch Me If You Can

From predators to prey, all animals have a role to play! In this program, students will meet 3 animal ambassadors and learn about the differences between omnivores, herbivores, and carnivores. Participants will also discover how energy flows within a food chain.

VA Science SOLs: 3.5b; 4.3a,b

NC Essential Standards (Science): 5.L.2.2

#### Know Your Niche

Each species inhabits a unique niche in its community. In this program, students will build an ecosystem and discover how each animal they meet has an important role to play.

VA Science SOLs: 3.5a,b; 3.8a, 4.3a,c

NC Essential Standards (Science): 4.L.1, 5.L.2



# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

## CONTINUED

### 3rd-5th Grade, continued

#### Secrets of Survival

What does it take to survive in the wild? Students will meet some of our animal ambassadors and explore the physical and behavioral adaptations that help them succeed out in nature.

VA Science SOLs: 3.4a,b

NC Essential Standards (Science): 4.L.1.2, 4.L.1.4

### 6th-12th Grade

#### Am I in the Right Class?

What's in a name? Join us for a crash course on Linnean classification. For each of the 3 animals your students meet, we'll break down every part of the animals' scientific name and discover which groups it belongs in. We'll also learn how these animals are related to each other and discuss how classifications can change as science advances.

VA Science SOLs: LS.3c; BIO.6a,f NC Essential Standards (Science): Bio.3.5

#### Animal Care

How do we care for over 150 different species of animals? During this 30 minute program, your group will learn all about our animals, their needs, and behaviors, and how we use science to provide the best possible care for our animals.

Concepts Covered: Animal Behavior; Zoo Careers; Nutrition

#### Community (Citizen) Science

Scientists need you! Every day scientists sift through piles of raw data, and sometimes they need a little help. Whether it's identifying frog calls and watching bird nests or flipping through camera traps and hunting for caterpillars; scientists are asking for our help. Join the Virginia Zoo as we explore how everyday people are getting involved to help scientists further our understanding of nature.

VA Science SOLs: LS.8, LS.9, ENV.12

NC Essential Standards (Science): Bio.2.2

# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

## CONTINUED

6th-12th Grade, continued

### Genetics at the Zoo

How do tools like Punnett squares help us care for our animals? This program introduces basic genetic principles related to domestication, variation in wild populations, and the special challenges of maintaining genetic diversity within zoos.

VA Science SOLs: LS.10c; LS.11a; BIO.5a,c

NC Essential Standards (Science): 7.L.2, Bio.3.2

### Species Survival Plan

What is the purpose of a zoo? Join us as we explore why zoos and aquariums have important roles to play in maintaining endangered species throughout the world. Learn how a Species Survival Plan helps us keep our zoo populations diverse and the teamwork it takes to keep a species from becoming extinct.

VA Science SOLs: LS.10, LS.11a,c; BIO.5c; BIO.7b

NC Essential Standards (Science): Bio.2.1.2, Bio3.1





# ZOO LABS

Students will strengthen their understanding of animals and conservation through our STEM lab programs. Students will collect, record, and interpret data in these hands-on programs. Please note that Zoo Labs do not include an animal encounter.

**These programs can be offered at the Zoo and at your school.**

## Nature Detectives (4th-12th Grade)

Follow the clues as we track down the animal predator in this zoo lab! Students will explore what it takes to be a wildlife biologist as they study animal tracks, scat replicas and more!

VA SOLs 3.1, 3.4a,b; 4.1; 4.3b,d; LS.1; LS.3c; LS.6a,d; LS.7b; BIO.1; BIO.6a; BIO.7cf

NC Essential Standards (Science): 5.L.2, 8.L.3, Bio.2.1.2, Bio.2.1.3

## Skull Lab (3rd-12th Grade)

Students will investigate the relationship between physical and behavioral adaptations as they document the traits of mammal skulls. Students will use a dichotomous key to identify the skulls, and the clues that students uncover will reveal the animal's role in the food chain, how it moves, and the way it senses the environment.

VA SOLs 3.1, 3.4a,b; 4.1; 4.3b,d; LS.1; LS.3c; LS.6a,d; LS.7b; BIO.1; BIO.6a; BIO.7cf

NC Essential Standards (Science): 5.L.2, 8.L.3, Bio.2.1.2, Bio.2.1.3





# EXPLORE TOURS

Join our educators and explore the zoo like never before. Each guided tour lasts for one hour and is aligned with curriculum standards. Tours can also be adjusted to best fit your learning objectives. During the booking process, you will have the ability to select one of the topics below:

## Adaptations

Observe the physical features and behavioral traits of animals here at the Zoo! Participants will learn how these adaptations help animals survive in their habitats.

VA Science SOLs: 3.4a,b

NC Essential Standards (Science): 4.L.1.2, 4.L.1.4

## Animal Groups

Learn how scientists group animals based on their physical traits. We will uncover what make birds, reptiles, and mammals uniquely different!

VA Science SOLs: K.7a,b; 1.5; 2.5a,b

## Zoo Careers

Explore the many jobs that help keep the Virginia Zoo running!

Concepts Covered: Animal Behavior; Zoo Careers; Nutrition



# VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

This 30-minute virtual program includes 3 animal ambassadors and has a wide variety of themes to choose from. Our programs include digital learning resources and a test call with one of our Zoo Educators.

### **Adaptations**

What is camouflage? Why do some animals sleep during the day? This program will reveal the physical and behavioral adaptations that animals use to survive.

VA Science SOLs: 3.4a,b

NC Essential Standards (Science): 4.L.1.2, 4.L.1.4

### **Animal Behavior**

Learn all about our animals' natural behaviors and how we use the science of animal behavior to provide the highest degree of animal care and welfare possible.

Concepts Covered: Animal Behavior; Nutrition

### **Animal Care**

How do we care for over 150 different species of animals? During this 30 minute program, your group will learn all about our animals, their needs, and behaviors, and how we use science to provide the best possible care for our animals.

Concepts Covered: Animal Behavior; Zoo Careers; Nutrition

### **Animal Groups**

Is it a mammal, reptile, bird, or amphibian? During this program students will explore how scientists classify animals into different groups.

VA Science SOLs: K.7a,b; 1.5; 2.5a,b

### **Community (Citizen) Science**

Scientists need you! Every day scientists sift through piles of raw data, and sometimes they need a little help. Whether it's identifying frog calls and watching bird nests or flipping through camera traps and hunting for caterpillars; scientists are asking for our help. Join the Virginia Zoo as we explore how everyday people are getting involved to help scientist further our understanding of nature.

VA Science SOLs: LS.8, LS.9, ENV.12 NC Essential Standards (Science): Bio.2.2

# VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

## CLOSE ENCOUNTERS cont.

### Food Chains & Webs

From predators to prey, all animals have a role to play! In this program, students will meet 3 animal ambassadors and learn about the differences between omnivores, herbivores, and carnivores. Participants will also discover how energy flows within a food chain.

VA Science SOLs: 3.5b; 4.3a,b NC Essential Standards (Science): 5.L.2.2

### Habitats

What makes a habitat a home? During this program, students will discover how each animal is adapted for a specific habitat that meets all of its basic needs.

VA Science SOLs: K.6a,b; K.7a; K.11c; 1.5a,b; 2.5a-c NC Essential Standards (Science): K.L.1.2, 1.L.1.1, 1.L.1.2, 1.L.2.2

### Life Cycles

Which animals lay eggs, and which animals give live birth? Which animals care for their young? Join us as we explore the different life cycles found within the animal kingdom.

VA Science SOLs: K.7; 1.5; 2.4a NC Essential Standards (Science): 2.L.1.1, 2.L.1.2

### Senses

What's that sound? During this program, students will investigate how animals use senses to interact with their environment.

VA Science SOLs: K.5a,b, 1.5b





# STARRY SAFARI



This 2.5 hour evening program will satisfy your night owls by combining a close encounter animal presentation with an evening wild walk through the Zoo. We will end the night with s'mores by the campfire! Please let us know about any dietary restrictions during the booking process.

- **Ages 5 and up | \$600 per program**
- **Start Times: Friday evenings starting between 5 pm and 6:30 pm**
- **Maximum of 35 individuals (must have 1 chaperone for every 10 participants)**

# EATING AT THE ZOO

The Zoo has limited availability for schools to eat their lunch in an outside, designated area. Lunches will be set in 30-minute time slots at Flora Point. We do not have tables at this location, so it is more of a "picnic" spot. Please note, that this spot is outside and does not have a covered shelter. You must reserve a time slot to eat inside at the zoo. Groups with no lunch reservations will not be allowed to bring outside food inside. Do not use tables that are inside/outside the Zoo restaurants. We do not have a spot for your students to store their lunches. Students are welcome to carry their lunches with them while they explore or leave their lunches on the bus. We recommend that participants bring a backpack to carry their lunches, water bottles, and any additional resources they need for the day.

## Boxed Lunches

**The Virginia Zoo offers boxed lunches at a \$10 rate, making lunch time easy and convenient.**

- Lunch requests can be added on to a field trip up to 10 days before your visit, based on availability.
- When you sign up for lunches, please include any known allergies, so that all accommodations can be made in the event of substitutions.
- Once confirmed and paid, you will be sent a lunch confirmation to show at our African Village Cafe restaurant, located in the Africa section of our zoo.
- Please give us a 72-hour notice if you wish to cancel. An invoice will be sent to your facility for any unpaid lunch orders.

**Meal options: All boxes come with plain potato chips, bag of grapes, zoo cookies, and a juice box. Gluten-free available upon request.**

- Turkey & Cheese Sandwich
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- Uncrustable
- Veggie Snack Box

## Meal Vouchers

**The Virginia Zoo offers Meal Vouchers for \$15 each.**

- Lunch requests can be added on to a field trip up to 10 days before your visit, based on availability.
- When you sign up for lunches, please include how many vouchers needed for your trip. Please state what time you plan to have your group eat lunch, so we can let the Restaurant staff know.
- Time slots are limited for Meal Vouchers. Groups will only have 30 minutes to eat lunch at the restaurant.
- Meal Vouchers are only exchangeable at the African Village Restaurant.
- A menu will be sent to your email once confirmed.
- Meal vouchers will be given out during check-in.
- Please give us a 72-hour notice if you wish to cancel. An invoice will be sent to your facility for any unpaid lunch orders.

# BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

## Contact Timeline

Majority of the emails sent out are automatically sent out through the reservation portal.

- Reservation Request Email will be sent out after submitting a reservation request.
- A confirmation email will be sent out after 3-5 business days once the Program Reservations Specialist has reviewed and approved the application.
- 2-week reminder Email - This confirms your trip and is your last chance to cancel your reservation.
- 1-week reminder Email

## Virginia Zoo Map

The Zoo is now paperless! Download the map to print or download our app and carry the Zoo everywhere you go.



<https://virginiazoo.org/directions/>

## Virginia Zoo Contact List

If there are any updates on numbers, you'll be able to change your numbers through the reservation portal once your trip is confirmed or email the Program Reservations Specialist. If you have any questions or concerns, you'll be able to email or call the Program Reservations Specialist or Guest Services.

### Program Reservations Specialist

- [vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov](mailto:vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov)
- 757-441-2374 ext. 229

### Guest Services

- [info@virginiazoo.com](mailto:info@virginiazoo.com)
- 757-441-2374 ext. 257

## Rescheduling and Cancellation

If your reservation must be rescheduled for any reason, the Program Reservations Specialist must be contacted at least 3 weeks prior to the originally scheduled reservation. Reschedule requests are subject to the availability of the new date requested.

## Virginia Zoo Field Trip Guidelines

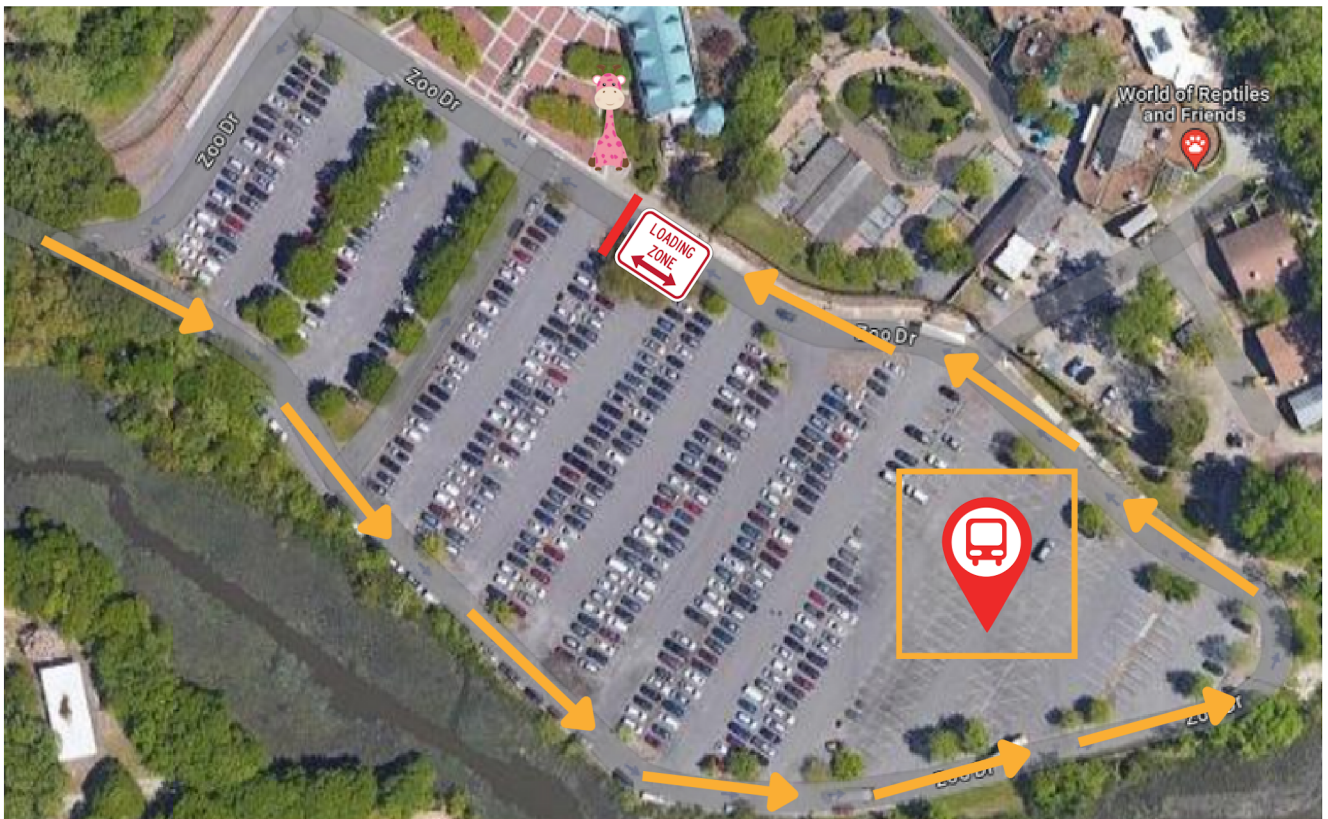
The lead contact, either a teacher or administrator, must read and sign the guidelines outlined on pages 4-6 of this document and email the signed copy to [vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov](mailto:vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov)



# WHEN YOU ARRIVE

## Bus Information

Thank you for driving your group to the Virginia Zoo. For everyone's safety please follow the below instructions unless otherwise instructed by a Zoo staff member:



- The parking lot speed limit is 8 mph.
- Drive the outside perimeter of the parking lot as marked on the map to get to the Giraffe Statue. Do NOT cut through the parking lot.
- **A bus loading zone is marked on the map. Do NOT unload, load, park or stand at any yellow curbing.**
- Do NOT block any gates.
- Once unloaded please wait until there are no children beside your bus before pulling away from the curb.
- Watch for pedestrians.
- When sitting for more than 10 minutes, please turn off your engine.
- Bus parking is in the back of the parking lot. Please exit the parking lot and re-enter at the yellow cones to turn around.

# WHEN YOU ARRIVE

## CONTINUED

### Chaperones

Chaperones must pay through the school to receive the field trip discounted ticket price. If the school/group requires a separate invoice for the chaperones, please notify the Program Reservations Specialist. Additional chaperones/teachers that did not pay through the school must pay the listed General Admission price. Schools that booked an education program will receive wristbands for all the adults that paid through the school. Any adult without a wristband will not be able to enter the program space.

Please provide a list of all paid chaperones that will be attending your school/group field trip. The list can be emailed to the Program Reservations Specialist at [vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov](mailto:vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov)

Chaperones that arrive before the school/group will be sorted into a zone to help crowd control at the Zoo's entrance gate. Please make sure chaperones are aware of your arrival time and the school's name. Information on your field trip will not be given out to individuals that are not on the chaperone list.

Please stand clear of the drop off area. We want to have the students disembark from the bus and line up in a timely manner. Once the students are done lining up a Zoo staff member will make a quick announcement. Students and teachers will enter in first and then the chaperones. Wristband and tickets will be checked for every chaperone entering the Zoo.



# ZOO TRAIN

## All Aboard the Virginia Zoo Express!

Climb aboard the Virginia Zoo Express at the Beazley Station in the Zoo's Plaza for a fun and informative journey around the Zoo!

### **Please be advised:**

- Train tokens will not be sold. Instead, a 'train ride' will be sold upon boarding at the Beazley Train Station only.
- The Zoo Train will only operate during times that the temperature is above 55 degrees. The train will be closed during inclement weather and extreme temperatures. The Zoo Train may also be closed for maintenance.

The Train accepts cash, credit card, and business checks. Since the train may close during inclement weather, we request payments be made separately upon arrival to the Zoo on the day of your visit.

Contact Kayla Gioia at 757.441.2374 x260 with any train questions.





# ZOOADOPT YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL

With our symbolic adoption program, you can become a 'Zoo Parent'! Every animal and garden at the Virginia Zoo is available for adoption at several donation levels. Proceeds benefit various Zoo programs, including the Zoo's Conservation Fund.

## Donation Levels:

### **\$25**

Includes a fact sheet, personalized certificate, picture and name recognition on our Zoo Parent Board and in the Zoo Review.

### **\$50**

Includes everything in the \$25 package plus a magnetic photo frame and a plush of your animal.

### **\$100**

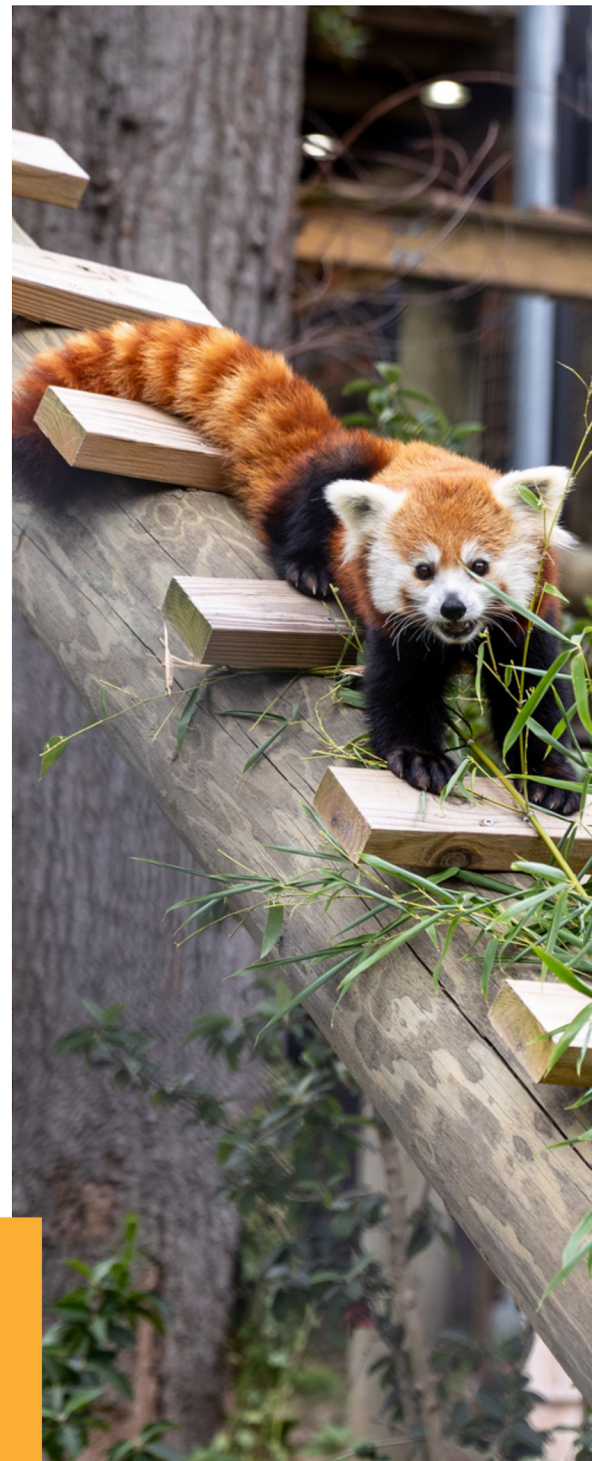
Includes everything in the \$50 package plus an invitation to a Zoo Parent event.

### **\$150**

Includes everything in the \$100 package plus a one-year subscription of the Zoo Review and a private, in-person Zoo Keeper Talk!

Upgrade any level to include mini Zoodoption bags for \$10 each. Includes the following:

- Mini certificate, fact sheet and wallet size photo of your animal
- 3" assorted plush toy
- Pencil, ruler and animal themed bag



# TEACHER RESOURCES

## Teacher Discounts for General Admission Tickets

Come anytime with your family and friends to visit the Virginia Zoo. We have a \$2 off discount on our General Admission tickets online and in person. Please bring in a valid Teacher ID.

## Teacher Discount for Virginia Zoo Memberships

Want to visit the Zoo year-round? Join the Virginia Zoo Member Squad and come hang with us! Enjoy different perks and giveaways for the year. Receive a \$10 off discount of all levels of membership when you purchase in person. Please bring in a valid Teacher ID.



<https://virginiazoo.org/community-memberships/>

## Community Memberships

A Community Membership will allow your organization to visit as often as you'd like for an entire year. It allows access for up to 15 guests per visit (one of which must be an adult), allowing different people to visit each time.

## Group Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Have a small group of 10 individuals counting yourself? We offer group behind-the-scenes tours here at the Virginia Zoo. Check the schedule to see what we have available.



<https://virginiazoo.org/school-programs/behind-the-scenes-tours/>



<https://virginiazoo.org/school-programs/digital-resources/>

## Digital Resources

Explore your wild side with our digital and printable resources. Catch up on your reading with the Zoo blog or binge a couple of our entertaining and educational videos.



# VOLUNTEERING AT THE VIRGINIA ZOO

## General Volunteer Information

- **What can you do as a volunteer?**

- Support the Virginia Zoo in its mission of engaging our community in taking action to save the world's wildlife and their ecosystems. Enhance the guest experience through education and interpretation, support daily operations and administration, help us put on exciting special events, or support our animals through care and conservation roles. Our Volunteers help out in a variety of different ways here at the zoo.

- **Why do you do it?**

- Our volunteers have a passion for the Zoo's mission and share this with guests and each other to build a strong community through service and stewardship.

- **How to sign up?**

- Applications for the Zoo Crew adult program are open year-round through the Virginia Zoo's Website with interviews and intake periods occurring at several scheduled times per year.

## Group Volunteering

Large groups help us accomplish lots of work in a short amount of time and allows your group to participate in a unique, fun team building activity. Corporate, civic, military, or any other groups that would like to volunteer at the Zoo are essential to getting BIG projects done around the zoo, including projects with our horticulture, animal services, and special events teams. Most projects are best suited for ages 18+, but some projects can be adjusted to accommodate groups with children. Available dates are posted on the Zoo's volunteer webpage.



<https://virginiazoo.org/get-involved/volunteer/>





# VOLUNTEERING CONT.

## Conservation Youth Team (CYT)

The Virginia Zoo's Conservation Youth Team (CYT) program is a volunteer and youth development program for ages 13 to 17 who are interested in learning more about wildlife and conservation, earning community service hours, and spending their time at the Zoo!

### Overview of CYT:

- Guide Track - CYT participants in this track hone their education and public speaking skills while providing enriching guest experiences, becoming familiar with Zoo stories and animals while encouraging and sharing their passion for conservation with Zoo guests!
- Camp Track – CYT participants in this track will mentor campers and assist our Camp instructors with our Summer Safari Camp Programs. They'll learn how to lead games and manage groups while assisting in activities such as learning labs, zoo tours, behind-the-scenes experiences, and animal encounters!
- More opportunities become available to teens in good standing and continue in the CYT program for multiple years, including peer mentoring, community science, animal observations, and animal handling/husbandry!

### How to Apply:

- Applications open on our website at the end of December.



<https://virginiazoo.org/get-involved/volunteer/>



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Can parents who are members attend as chaperones for free?**

Members only receive free admission for self-guided Field Trips. If schools are booking an education program, everyone participating in the program must be included in the count. If members would like to join onto a visit after an education program, they are welcome to still visit the Zoo, like normal using their membership.

## **Can children who are included in their family's membership visit for free?**

Members only receive free admission for self-guided Field Trips. If schools are booking an education program, everyone participating in the program must be included in the count. Free member students do not count towards the number of free adult chaperones.

## **If I'm booking an animal program, do I get to pick the animals?**

No. The Virginia Zoo cannot guarantee specific animal ambassadors. The ambassadors participating in the animal presentation will be chosen by staff at the Virginia Zoo. Ambassadors will be selected for your program based on animal health and safety.

## **Do I need to make a reservation for my ADA group?**

We recommend all ADA groups to call or email the Program Reservations Specialist to make a reservation. ADA individuals will receive free admission with one free chaperone.

Can schools pay by check? Yes. Checks should be made out to the Virginia Zoo.

## **Can I schedule a field trip on a weekend?**

Our field trip experiences are only offered on weekdays. Your group can still come on the weekend, but they will have to purchase General Admission tickets

## **Can I change the number of students coming on a trip?**

Yes, the number of students coming can be changed and the final payment due will be adjusted as needed. \*Please note, lunch orders will need to be confirmed 10 days prior to your Zoo visit and cannot be adjusted after that.

## **Can I reschedule my trip?**

Yes. Please contact the Program Reservations Specialist at [vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov](mailto:vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov) or 757-447-2374 x229 to change dates.

## **What happens when a parent/chaperone is running late and needs to find a school group?**

It is the responsibility of the school to let contacts and chaperones know where to meet if they arrive late. The Virginia Zoo will not be able to provide late arrivals with this information.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## CONTINUED

### **Are we allowed to bring our own lunch?**

Yes. School & Group lunch spot locations are Flora point, which is next to our Garden Gazebo, and the Elephant Statue, which is outside the entrance gates. School & Groups are not allowed to utilize the tables inside or around the restaurants.

### **Can my students bring art to share with the Zookeepers?**

Yes. We do accept small drawings/paintings to display in the ticket booths. Notes and artwork are shared with Zoo staff, but students won't be able to give it to the Zookeepers directly the day of your visit.

### **Will the train be running?**

The Zoo train will only operate during times that the temperature is above 55 degrees. The train will be closed during inclement weather and extreme temperatures. The Zoo Train may also be closed for maintenance. Please call the day of your trip to see if the train is running for the day.

### **Will the fountain be on?**

Fountains are turned on Memorial Day until Labor Day. Fountains will be turned off during inclement weather and weekdays during the school year.

### **Can I just show up and receive the field trip discount at the Ticket Booth?**

Unfortunately, field trips must make a reservation online to receive the discounted tickets and perks. Groups that show up without a reservation will pay the listed General Admission cost.

### **Where do I go if I need a wheelchair?**

Wheelchairs can be rented for the day on a first come, first-serve basis. They can be rented from the Zoo's Gift Shop or at the Stroller Shack, located just outside the shop. Regular wheelchairs: \$12

### **Who can answer questions for groups?**

Please contact the Program Reservations Specialist with specific questions. [vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov](mailto:vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov) or 757-441-2374 x229.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## CONTINUED

### **Is the Virginia Zoo Sensory Inclusive?**

The Virginia Zoo has partnered with non-profit KultureCity to become a certified sensory-inclusive facility. A limited number of sensory backpacks and weighted lap pads are available in the membership office located inside the Zoo, to the left upon entering through the Ticket Booth. Bags are available for checkout at no cost to those visiting the Zoo.

### **What happens if there is inclement weather on the day of my trip?**

The Virginia Zoo is a rain or shine attraction. Please provide 24-48 hours' notice if rescheduling. Rescheduling is subject to availability, and we may not always be able to accommodate your rescheduled date.

### **What if I can't reschedule my trip, can I get a refund?**

The Virginia Zoo is open rain or shine. There are no refunds due to animal visibility or weather conditions. Special circumstances, including extremes in weather, construction, births, feeding and veterinary procedures may require that certain animals be removed from public viewing to ensure their best possible care. If you can't reschedule your trip, please contact the Program Reservations Specialist for assistance.

### **Is there a gift shop at the zoo?**

Yes. The Virginia Zoo Gift Shop is open daily and located inside the Zoo to the left of the Membership office. Shop a wide variety of items for Zoo lovers of all ages, many of which support conservation efforts around the world. We do ask that only 1 group of 10 students with a chaperone enter at a time.