



VIRGINIA ZOO FIELD TRIP PACKET

3500 Granby St, Norfolk, VA 23504
virginiazoo.org



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Director	03
Field Trips at the Zoo	04
Zoo To You	04
Large Group Programs	05
Class-sized Programs	
Close Encounters	06
Zoo Labs	07
Self-Guided Field Trips	07
Coming Soon to the Zoo	08
Field Trip Add-ons	09
Chaperones	10
Bus Information	10
Arrival	11
FAQ	12
Teacher Resources	14
Field Trip Guidelines	15

Scan the QR code below to
book your field trip today.



Please contact the Program Reservations
Specialist with specific questions.

✉ vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov
☎ (757) 441-2374 x 229
📞 (757) 323-3157

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Now that the school year is well underway, we're excited to reconnect and share what's happening at the Virginia Zoo.

Thank you for being part of our educational community, we're glad this found its way to you. 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 education 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.

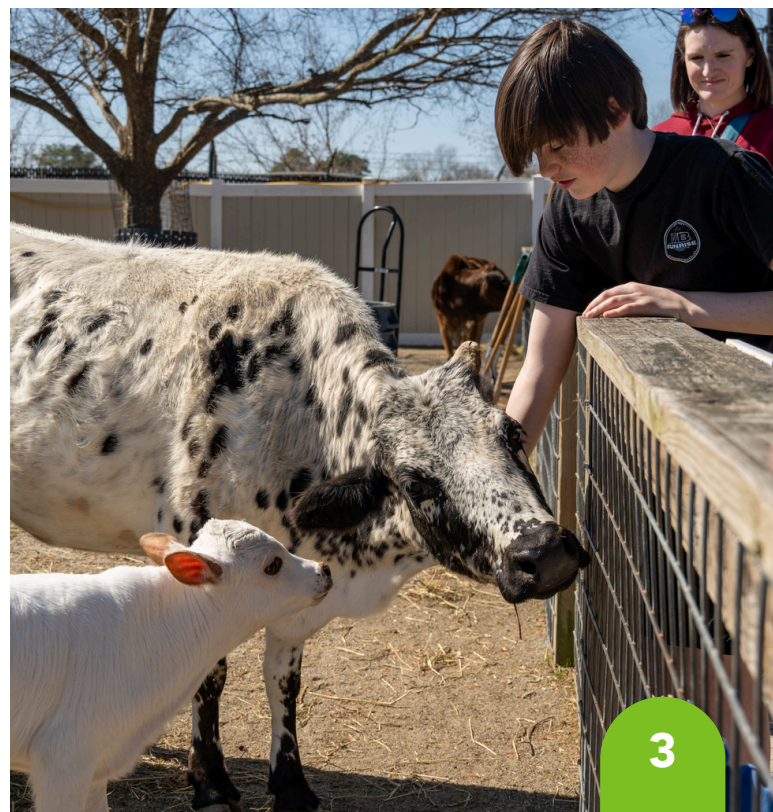
We wish you a wonderful year ahead and hope that you will make the Virginia Zoo part of your learning experience. See you at the Zoo!



Michelle Lewis
Senior Director of Mission Engagement

P.S. Book a field trip between now and December 31, 2026 (visits can happen anytime this school year), and mention that you heard about it through our Field Trip Packet, you'll be entered to win a free Virginia Zoo membership just for you!

This membership gives you and your family free daytime admission for a full year, plus discounts on special events. We hope to welcome your students - and you - soon!



FIELD TRIPS AT THE ZOO

Field Trips at the Zoo include: Large Group Programs, Close Encounters, Zoo Lab, or Self Guided. Find more information about these programs on upcoming pages.

COST

\$12/student

TITLE 1* SCHOOLS

\$7/student

Cost includes general admission to the Zoo and one (1) chaperone per 10 students.

**To receive our Title 1 rate for in-state public schools, you must be listed on the current official Virginia Department of Education Title 1 Public School listing. To receive our Title 1 rate for out-of-state public schools, your school or district is required to provide official documentation that shows your school is a fully funded Title 1 Public School. This letter will need to be submitted to vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov.*

ZOO TO YOU

Bring the Zoo to your school or group! Zoo to You includes: Large Group Programs, Close Encounters, or Zoo Lab. Find more information about these programs on upcoming pages.

LARGE GROUP PROGRAM

Info on page 5.

\$400 flat rate & travel fee may apply

CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Info on page 6.

\$350 flat rate & travel fee may apply
\$210 for Title 1 schools

ZOO LAB

Info on page 7.

\$180 flat rate & travel fee may apply

50% off available for consecutive programs

TRAVEL FEES

Travel fees may apply when you choose to host a Zoo program at your school. Fees are calculated by your campus's distance from the Zoo in miles. Travel is free for any program sites in Norfolk.

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



LARGE GROUP PROGRAMS

Bring the whole grade or whole school together for a 30-minute auditorium-style program where they will meet and learn about 3 animal ambassadors!

WORLD TRAVELER

(GRADES K - 2)

Join us on a global animal adventure! Your explorers will meet 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 Science Standards: LS.K.1.1, LS.K.1.2, LS.1.1.1

ZOO EDVENTURE

(GRADES 3-12)

Bring your whole group together to meet some of our animal ambassadors! Students will meet 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 Science Standards: LS.K.1.1, LS.K.1.2, LS.1.1.1, LS.4.1.2, LS.4.1.2, LS.5.2, LS.8.2, LS.Bio.9.1

AT THE ZOO

Program Size

34 - 95 individuals

Program Time

Available at 10 am, 10:45 am, 11:30 am, or 12:15 pm.

Cost

- \$12/student
 - \$7/student for Title 1 schools
- Cost includes general admission to the Zoo.

AT YOUR SCHOOL

Program Size

Recommended for group sizes of up to 150 individuals.

Program Time

Any time between 9:30 am and 2 pm

Cost

- \$400 flat rate
- A travel fee may apply
- 50% off for consecutive large group programs



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Close Encounters provide a more in-depth, up-close learning experience, meant for a single class. Each program will be 30 minutes and include 2 animal ambassadors. These programs offer several themes per age group listed below.

ANIMALS ON THE MOVE

(AGES 3-5)

Students will be able to observe how different animals move and try out those movements themselves!

VA ELDS: HPD2.1

COLORFUL ANIMAL KINGDOM

(AGES 3-5)

Students will learn how animals use their colors to survive.

VA ELDS: CD3.4

ONE, TWO, WHO'S AT THE ZOO?

(AGES 3-5)

Students will practice their counting skills with different animals.

VA ELDS: CD3.1

LIFE CYCLES

(GRADES K-2)

Students will learn about the different life cycles found within the animal kingdom.

VA Science SOLs: K.7; 1.5; 2.4a

NC Essential Science Standards: LS.2.1

SENSES

(GRADES K-2)

Students will learn how animals use senses to interact with their environment.

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

WILD ABOUT WEATHER

(GRADES K-2)

Students will learn 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 Science Standards: ESS.K.1, ESS.2.1

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

(GRADES 3-5)

Students will learn how energy flows within a food chain and the differences between omnivores, herbivores, and carnivores.

VA Science SOLs: 3.5b; 4.3a,b

NC Essential Science Standards: LS.5.2.2

SECRETS OF SURVIVAL

(GRADES 3-5)

Students will explore the physical and behavioral adaptations in animals that help them succeed out in nature.

VA Science SOLs: 3.4a,b

NC Essential Science Standards: LS.4.1.2, LS.4.1.3

AM I IN THE RIGHT CLASS?

(GRADES 6-12)

Students will get a crash course on Linnean classification, learning every part of an animal's scientific name.

VA Science SOLs: LS.3c; BIO.6a,f

NC Essential Science Standards: LS.Bio.10.2

ANIMAL CARE

(GRADES 6-12)

Students will learn how we use science to provide the best possible care for our animals.

Concepts Covered: Animal Behavior; Zoo Careers; Nutrition

COMMUNITY (CITIZEN) SCIENCE

(GRADES 6-12)

Students will learn how everyday people can get involved to help scientists further our understanding of nature.

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

NC Essential Science Standards: LS.Bio.5.2

AT THE ZOO

Program Size

15 - 33 individuals

Program Time

Available at 10 am, 10:45 am, 11:30 am, or 12:15 pm.

Cost

- \$12/student
- \$7/student for Title 1 schools

Cost includes general admission to the Zoo.

AT YOUR SCHOOL

Program Size

Up to 33 students

Program Time

Any time between 9:30 am and 2 pm

Cost

\$350 flat rate, \$210 for Title 1 schools

- A travel fee may apply
- 50% off for consecutive classroom programs

ZOO LABS

Zoo Labs* provide a hands-on STEM learning experience meant for a single class. This is a 45-minute program.

**Program does not include an animal ambassador.*

NATURE DETECTIVES

(GRADES 3-12)

Students will explore what it takes to be a wildlife biologist as they study animal tracks, scat replicas and more!

VA Science 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.7c

NC Essential Science Standards: 5.L.2.2, LS.8.2.2, LS.Bio.9.1

SPECIES SURVIVAL PLAN

(GRADES 7-12)

In this interactive program, students will learn about tiger population genetics in the wild and use that knowledge to make conservation decisions about tigers in zoos.

VA Science SOLs: LS.1; LS.7b; LS.8b; LS.9a-c; LS.11a,c; BIO.1; BIO.7b,c

NC Essential Science Standards: 5.L.2.2, LS.8.2.2, LS.Bio.9.1, LS.Bio.10.2

SKULL LAB

(GRADES 3-12)

Students will use dichotomous keys to identify mammal skulls and explore their adaptations.

VA Science 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.7c

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

AT THE ZOO

Program Size

15 - 33 individuals

Program Time

Available at 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, or 2 pm.

Cost

- \$12/student
- \$7/student for Title 1 schools

Cost includes general admission to the Zoo.

AT YOUR SCHOOL

Program Size

Up to 33 students

Program Time

Any time between 9:30 am and 2 pm

Cost

\$180 flat rate

- A travel fee may apply

50% off for consecutive classroom programs

SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIPS

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

COST

\$12/student (\$7/student for Title 1 schools - more info on page 4)

SPECIAL EDUCATION + ADA

Free for all individuals with an ADA-recognized disability and one adult companion.



Scan to learn more about guided Zoo tours and virtual programming options.



COMING SOON TO THE ZOO

EDVENTURE & EXPLORATION CAMPUS

We are excited to debut the brand-new Macon & Joan Brock Edventure & Exploration Campus in the coming months! It will feature a variety of new experiences including themed virtual reality, Ambassador Animal encounter opportunities, private event rental spaces, and more!



**COMING
SOON**



AFRICAN SAFARI TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

Starting in 2026 your visit may be impacted while the Africa Safari Trail will be undergoing a makeover. Please plan accordingly and follow along for the exciting updates to come!



FIELD TRIP ADD-ONS

LUNCH AT THE ZOO

The Virginia Zoo offers boxed lunches for \$12 each or meal vouchers for \$17 each, making lunch time easy and convenient.

Lunch orders can be purchased for a field trip up to 10 days before your trip. Please note that all groups must make advanced reservations to eat lunch at the Zoo, whether purchasing lunch here or bringing in outside food. The designated picnic spot is outdoors with no covered shelter.

ZOO TRAIN

Climb aboard the Virginia Zoo Express for a fun and informative journey around the Zoo!

Train rides are \$3 per individual over 2 years old. Because the train may close during inclement weather, train rides cannot be bought in advance and must be purchased upon boarding at the train station. Contact the Train and Gift Shop Manager at (757) 441-2374 ext. 260 with any train questions.

CLASS ZOOPTIONS

Symbolically adopt your class's favorite Zoo resident to support their care and conservation!

Every animal and garden at the Virginia Zoo is available for adoption at several donation levels.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about zoodoptions.



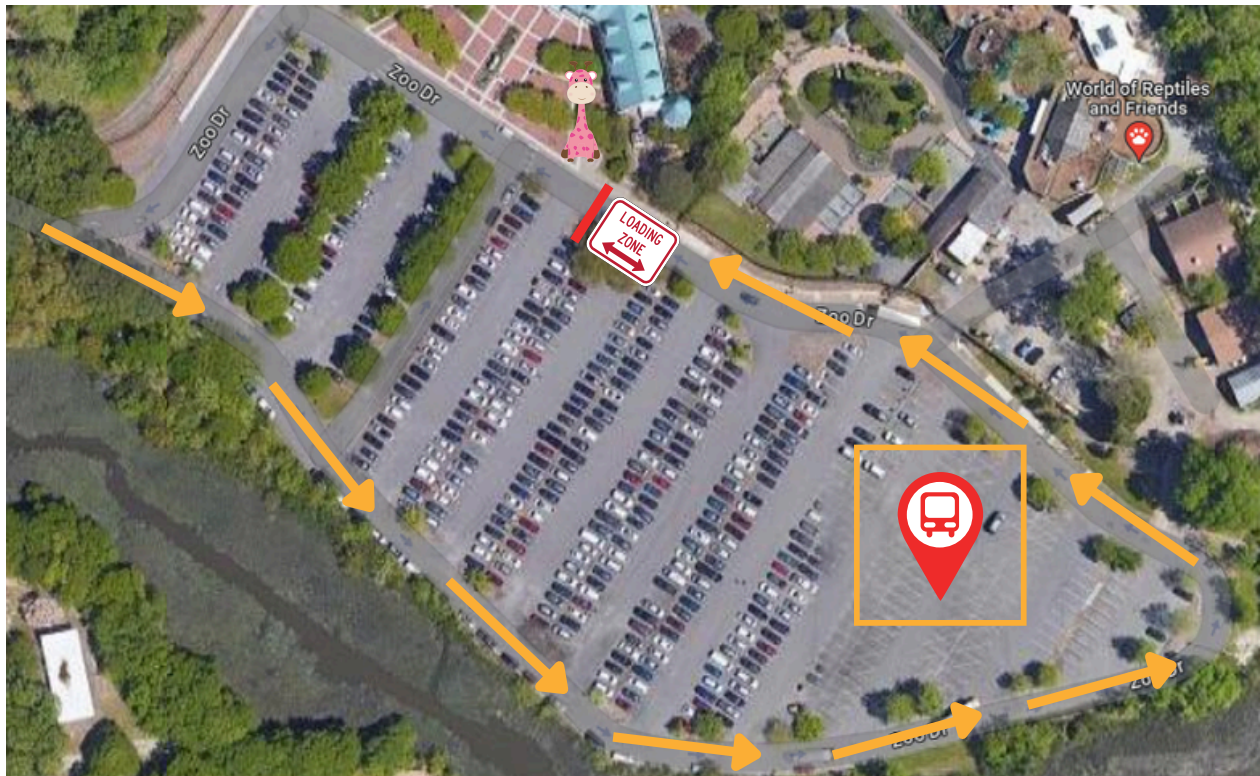
CHAPERONES

Chaperones must pay through the school to receive the field trip discounted ticket 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 make sure chaperones are aware of your arrival time and the school's name.

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

BUS INFORMATION

To ensure everyone's safety upon arrival, if arriving by bus, please follow the below instructions unless otherwise instructed by a Zoo staff member:



- Drive the entire perimeter of the parking lot as marked on the map, and follow the posted signage to reach the drop-off location.
- Please stop for any parking attendants to state your organization's name and how many buses are in your group.
- Do not cut through the parking lot or block any gates
- 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.

*Bus Drivers, please bring your badge up to the ticket booth to redeem your complimentary admission ticket.

ARRIVAL

The Zoo recognizes chaperones as teachers, teacher assistants, staff members, parents, and guardians.

Chaperones arriving separately from the school will check in with the zoo staff member outside the ticket booth. Our team will inform your chaperones where to go next.

If your group has a program, chaperones will receive a wristband if they are on the provided chaperone list. Our staff will direct them to a waiting zone near the bus drop-off.

If your group does not have a program, chaperones will be instructed to proceed through the Ticket Booth and wait inside our Globe Plaza for your school's arrival.

Late arrivals, listed on your chaperone list, can check in at the ticket booth. Please make sure all chaperones have a way to contact you directly, as we will not be able to help them find your group if they arrive late.

CHAPERONE GUIDE

Please make sure all chaperones attending the field trip have a chaperone guide filled out before they arrive at the Zoo.

Chaperones are required to stay with students at all times who are under the age of 16 years of age. 1 chaperone per 10 students.

Before your visit, please make sure you have the following information from your teacher.

☐ Phone number of your teacher or lead teacher: _____

☐ Time of lunch: _____

☐ Time to be back at the bus: _____

☐ Name of students in your group:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

☐ Educational goals of the trip:

_____	_____
_____	_____

FAQ

BOOKING

DO I NEED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR MY ADA GROUP?

We recommend that all ADA groups make a reservation online as a Self-Guided Field Trip. ADA individuals will receive free admission with one free chaperone.

CAN I SCHEDULE A FIELD TRIP ON A WEEKEND?

Our field trip experiences are only offered Monday through Friday. For weekend group visits, check out our Group Admission Discount on our website.

IF I'M BOOKING A PROGRAM WITH ANIMALS, DO I GET TO PICK THE ANIMAL AMBASSADORS?

No. The ambassadors participating in the animal presentation will be chosen by staff at the Virginia Zoo based on the program theme, animal health, and safety.

MAKING CHANGES

CAN I CHANGE MY GROUP'S HEADCOUNT?

Yes. You can update your group size by contacting the Program Reservations Specialist at vazoo.reservations@norfolk.gov or (757) 447-2374 ext. 229.

CAN I RESCHEDULE/CANCEL MY FIELD TRIP?

In order to reschedule, you must give us notice at least 3 weeks from the original date. Reschedule requests are subject to the availability of the new date requested. Refunds will only be issued under special circumstances.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THERE IS INCLEMENT WEATHER ON THE DAY OF MY TRIP?

The Virginia Zoo is a rain or shine attraction. Please provide at least 24 hours' notice if rescheduling due to weather. We may not always be able to accommodate your desired rescheduled date.

PAYMENT

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 a program, everyone participating in the program must be included in the count. Memberships will need to be verified through Guest Services.

WHAT TYPE OF PAYMENT DOES THE ZOO ACCEPT?

We accept credit/debit cards and check payments. We do not accept cash payments or purchase orders.

CAN I RECEIVE THE FIELD TRIP DISCOUNT AT THE TICKET BOOTH?

Field Trips reservations need to be made through our website. Groups that show up without a confirmed reservation will have to pay general admission costs.

WHY AM I GETTING CHARGED A FEE ON MY INVOICE?

Ticket prices include our \$2.05 Conservation and Technology fee. For our record keeping, it will show separately on your invoice/receipt. This fee is not a tax and can not be exempt from your invoice. A non-refundable \$2.05 Conservation and Technology Fee applies to each ticket. Part of this fee directly supports the Zoo's Conservation Fund that protects wildlife and wild places locally and around the world through research, education, breeding programs and other initiatives. The Technology Fee will enable the Zoo to provide a seamless reservation and entry experience for guests and members.



FAQ

DAY OF VISIT

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHAPERONE IS RUNNING LATE AND NEEDS TO FIND A SCHOOL GROUP?

It is the responsibility of the school to let chaperones know where to meet if they arrive late. Due to safety, the Virginia Zoo does not give out group locations or information.

ARE WE ALLOWED TO BRING OUR OWN LUNCH?

Yes. Group lunch spot locations are at Flora Point, which is next to Turtle Oasis, and the Elephant Statue, which is outside the entrance gates. Groups are not allowed to utilize the tables inside the restaurants.

WILL THE TRAIN BE RUNNING?

The train operates from March 1 to October 31. The train will operate when the high temperature is above 55*. The train will close during inclement weather and maintenance.

WILL THE FOUNTAINS BE ON?

Fountains are on from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The fountains will close during inclement weather and for maintenance.

IS THE VIRGINIA ZOO ADA ACCESSIBLE?

The Virginia Zoo is certified sensory inclusive facility through KultureCity. We have sensory bags and braille guides to borrow for the day in our Membership Office. We have two large single-stalled restrooms in our World of Reptiles building. Wheelchairs are available for rent through our Gift Shop. For more information about our accessibility and amenities, please head over to our website.

IS THERE A GIFT SHOP AT THE ZOO?

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

CAN I BRING A WAGON TO HELP TRANSPORT OUR LUNCH TO THE LUNCH LOCATION?

Yes. Groups can also rent a wagon from our Membership Office to help with transportation. Supplies are limited. Once your group is finished, return the wagon to the Membership Office.



TEACHER RESOURCES

Scan the QR code below each item to learn more.

GROUP EXPLORER MEMBERSHIP

A Group Explorer 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.



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

CONSERVATION YOUTH TEAM

The Virginia Zoo's Conservation Youth Team (CYT) 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!



<https://virginiazoo.org/school-programs/conservation-youth-team/>

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/behind-the-scenes-tours/>

TEACHER DISCOUNTS FOR GENERAL ADMISSION AND MEMBERSHIP

Visit the Virginia Zoo anytime and get \$2 off discount on your general admission ticket as our way of recognizing your hard work as a teacher. And if you want to visit the Zoo year-round, you receive \$10 off any level of Zoo Membership when you sign up in person! Please bring in a valid Teacher ID.



FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

ALL TEACHERS MUST READ AND SIGN THIS FORM PRIOR TO YOUR RESERVED FIELD TRIP DATE.

- We acknowledge that we are responsible to inform any additional staff/adults attending about the Field Trip Guidelines and Zoo Policies.
- We acknowledge that the Zoo opens at 9:30 am and closes at 4:00 pm. And will arrive at our scheduled time.
- We acknowledge that we need to arrive at least 15 minutes before our scheduled educational program.
- We acknowledge that we will wait on the bus until a Virginia Zoo staff member tells us to disembark the bus.
- We acknowledge that school check-in will be held at the front of the Zoo entrance gate near the giraffe statue.
- We acknowledge that full payment is due once we arrive, and tickets are non-refundable. All sales are final. Should an attendee be unable to attend the field trip, the purchase will be considered a donation.
- We acknowledge that the Conservation and Technology Fee is not a tax and is not exemptible.
- We acknowledge that the field trip rate is only available through our reservation order and additional tickets cannot be purchased through Daily General Admission.
- We acknowledge that all students under the age of 16 are required to always have an adult with them.
- We acknowledge that only the preapproved number of participants and chaperones will be able to enter the educational program. Pre-approved individuals will receive a wristband as their ticket into the program from our Group Lead.
- We acknowledge that we are responsible for informing our chaperones of our field trip itinerary. And provide a list of paid chaperones names to the Program Reservations Specialist.
- We acknowledge that if our reservation must be rescheduled/canceled 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 to preorder lunches we must place and pay in full 10 days before the schedule trip.
- We acknowledge that the gift shop only allows one group of 10 individuals supervised by an adult inside the Gift Shop at a time.
- We acknowledge that the Zoo is open rain or shine.
- 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 Zoo rules at www.virginiazoo.org/zoo-rules/
- We acknowledge that we have fully read and understand the contents in our field trip confirmation email.

Scan the QR code to digitally sign this form.





3500 Granby St
Norfolk, VA 23504

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Norfolk, VA
PERMIT No. 334

