

ZOO ATLANTA

**SCHOOL
PROGRAM
GUIDE
2025 - 2026**

ZOO SOMETHING EDUCATIONAL!



A WILD YEAR AWAITS YOU!

Dear Educators,

It's a new year and a new chance to engage your students with animals from around the world, STEM careers, opportunities to save species, and so much more! As you plan for the year ahead, we hope that you will keep us in mind and reach out to learn all the ways Zoo Atlanta can support student learning. From onsite programs and opportunities to bring the Zoo to you, to professional development and online resources for educators, Zoo Atlanta has a long history of creating engaging programs and supporting classroom curriculum. As an organization focused on educating and inspiring our visitors, we are here to support your students on their educational journey.

Through Zoo Atlanta's mission, to "save wildlife and their habitats through conservation, research, education, and engaging experiences," we connect students to science in real and meaningful ways. These connections help build and shape the next generation of stewards, scientists, researchers, educators, and problem solvers for our planet. In each of our programs, you will see a direct connection to the standards with many programs highlighting crosscutting concepts as part of the content. Our diverse collection of programs is designed with you and your students in mind. All programs are connected to the Georgia Standards of Excellence and include teacher resources to support student learning before and after your visit.

In this School Guide, you will see a number of ways that Zoo Atlanta supports you as a teacher and complements your curriculum. Come take a walk on the wild side with us through a Wild Walk guided tour or challenge your students' learning through a Zoo Challenge program. Take a peek behind the scenes to see what it takes to care for animals from around the globe. Enjoy the Zoo on a Self-Guided Field Trip with Explore Guides to enhance student learning, or take the work out of a field trip altogether and allow us to come to you through the ZooMobile program.

Regardless of your learning objectives, we are here to support you. Check out zooatlanta.org for a number of Teacher Resources including our Cases for Conservation, Zoo2You videos, Education Poster, and the Sponsored Admission Program, to name a few.

Please save the date for two special events just for YOU! In the fall, attend the Educator Soirée, an exclusive after-hours, educator-only event, where you can explore the Zoo's programs and resources while visiting some of the Zoo's animal ambassadors. In the spring, enjoy free admission for yourself and discounted admission for your family at Educator Appreciation Day. Lastly, every day we have a special discount on Zoo Atlanta Membership just for Georgia educators.

All the best for a great year ahead! We hope to see you at the Zoo!

Staci Wiech

Vice President of Education



SCAN HERE FOR
MORE INFORMATION

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FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

REGISTRATION

- All education programs require pre-registration.
- You will receive one FREE adult chaperone ticket per every 10 students. Additional adults pay the same rate as students.
- Minimum group size of 10 students is required to receive the discounted admission rate. No maximum.
- For more information, please contact the Education Department at 404.624.5822 or education@zooatlanta.org.

ARRIVAL

- Buses drop off at the circle drive located at 800 Cherokee Avenue, S.E., Atlanta, GA 30315.
- A Zoo Ambassador will greet you and instruct the lead chaperone to head to the Main Gate to check in the group while the bus unloads.
- Once the bus is unloaded, a Zoo Ambassador will direct you to the Zoo entrance.
- For information regarding bus parking, please visit: zooatlanta.org/visit/getting-here/
- Car parking is conveniently located in the lot on Cherokee Avenue and in the new Grant Park Gateway parking facility on Boulevard. These lots are owned by the City of Atlanta and managed by AAA Parking.

LUNCH

- You can pre-order your lunch! Your group can order your choice of pizza or sandwich, apple slices, cookie, and water or juice! Please contact Special Events via specialevents@zooatlanta.org or at 404.624.5995. Orders must be placed 14 days prior to your visit.
- Group lunch storage is available in the Zoo at **The Lunch Den**, Monday through Friday, year-round near Treetop Trail. Lunches must be labeled in a cooler or container and will need to be transported by the group; no carts are available.

SELF-GUIDED FIELD TRIP



Explore the Zoo on your own at a discounted group rate! Enhance your students' educational experience with our **Explore Guides**, which include standards-based, grade-specific activities found on the Teacher Resources page on our website.

Grades PreK-12 | \$14.99 per person

(includes Zoo admission and one FREE adult chaperone per 10 students)

REGISTRATION

- Educational group reservations must be made at least 14 days prior to the date of your visit to receive the discounted school admission rate of \$14.99.
- Payment is due at least 14 days prior to the date of your visit.
- Educational groups will not receive refunds for any unused portion of your reservation or for rain.
- Payments are NOT accepted at the gate for the \$14.99 Educational Group rate.

SPONSORED ADMISSIONS

Zoo Atlanta is thrilled to offer free Self-Guided Field Trips and Wild Walks to a limited number of Georgia Title I Schools for their students. The Sponsored Admissions Program is offered based on availability of funds. Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance into the program. One application is submitted per class or individual school group, as applications are not accepted for entire schools.

To apply please visit:

zooatlanta.org/sponsored-admissions-program



WILD WALKS



Take a walk on the wild side as Zoo Educators lead you on a one-hour guided tour through the Zoo to discover amazing animals from around the world. Students will gain knowledge about the animals in our care, Zoo Atlanta’s conservation efforts, and ways you can help save species. Tours can be tailored to cover grade-specific standards with advance notice.

Grades PreK – 12 | \$18.99 per person

(includes Zoo admission and one FREE adult chaperone per 10 students)

START TIMES: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. | **DURATION:** 60 minutes

WILD WALK PROGRAM THEMES:

Grades PreK-5: Animal Adaptations

Run, jump, crawl and climb – animals have amazing adaptations to move, hide and stay alive. Tour the Zoo and observe animals in action to learn what makes them unique and maybe even similar to us.

Grades 6-8: We’re All Connected

From the mighty oaks to the tiny terrapins, we are all connected on this Earth. During your tour, learn about different roles that animals play in their ecosystems, and find out why biodiversity is so important.

Grades 9-12: Conservation Connections

Plants and animals around the globe face the threat of extinction and need our help. Learn about Zoo Atlanta’s conservation and research initiatives and explore the ways the animals in our care are ambassadors for their wild counterparts.

Grade Level(s)	Program Themes	GSE	NGSS
PreK – 5th Grade	Amazing Adaptations	CD-SC3	
		SKL2	K-LS1-1
		S1L1	1-LS1-1
		S2L1	2-LS4-1
		S3L1	3-LS4-2
		S4L1	4-LS1-1
		S5L2	5-PS3-1
6th – 8th Grade	We’re All Connected	S6E4; S7L4; S8P2	MS-LS2-2
9th – 12th Grade	Conservation Connections	SB5; SB6; SEC1; SEC5; SEV1; SEV4; SZ4	HS-LS2-2; HS-LS4-4

To learn more, visit our website:

zooatlanta.org/program/wild-walks-schools-groups

All Grade Levels: STEM Wild Walk

Engineers often use the natural world as inspiration for design. During this guided experience, students will explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, discuss the fascinating world of bio-inspired design, and learn how animals and nature continue to inspire engineers every day! Students will learn about the practice of bio-inspired design and how it can help us identify solutions to human problems. Maybe you will become inspired to create as well!

All Grade Levels: Zoo Careers Wild Walk

From Animal Care and Veterinary Medicine to Horticulture, Marketing, Events, and everything in between, the Zoo is an organization with a wide variety of skilled professionals needed to keep it thriving. Students will learn about many of the career choices available at zoos and what it is like to work at an accredited zoological institution.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES ADD-ON (NEW!)

What happens behind-the-scenes of a zoo? For an additional \$6, upgrade your older explorers (3rd grade and up) and extend your experience by 30 minutes with a guided tour behind the scenes to learn how we care for animals from tiny frogs to mighty elephants. Students will have a chance to learn about our new state-of-the-art veterinary complex, The Rollins Animal Health Center, and visit the Animal Nutrition Kitchen to learn what it takes to feed a zoo.



This behind-the-scenes portion of the tour is not fully ADA accessible.

REGISTRATION

- Educational group reservations must be made at least five weeks prior to program date.
- Non-refundable deposit of \$50 is due at the time of reservation.
- Minimum group size is 10 with a maximum of 120 per session.
- Payment is due at least four weeks prior to the date of your visit.
- All cancellations forfeit the \$50 deposit.
- Educational groups will not receive refunds for rain.



ZOO CHALLENGE



These Educator-led programs, for students grades Pre-K through 12, can enhance your Field Trip to the Zoo through inquiry-based exploration. Programs focus on creating a connection between your students and wildlife and wild places while supporting the curriculum of your classroom and the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Science.

Whether you are looking to further explore the regions of Georgia or study the importance of pollinators on our planet, you can choose the program that best fits your curriculum, your students, and your context!

Grades PreK – 12 | \$20.99 per person

(includes Zoo admission and one FREE adult chaperone per 10 students)

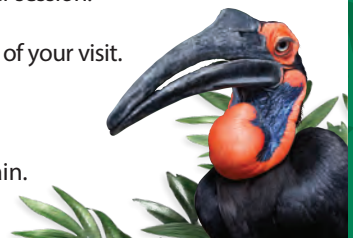
START TIMES: 10 a.m. or 12 p.m.

Grade Level(s)	Program Themes	GSE	NGSS
PreK	Fur, Feather & Scales	CD-SC3	K-LS1-1
K – 1 st Grade	The Needs to Succeed	SKL1, S1L1	K-LS1-1, 1-LS1-1
2 nd Grade	Hope for Habitats	S2E3	2-LS4-1
3 rd – 4 th Grade	Feel the Heat	S3P1, S4L1	4-LS1-1
5 th – 6 th Grade	Sorting Species	S5L1	MS-LS1-5
7 th Grade	Scientifically Speaking	S7L1	MS-LS4-2
8 th Grade	Force of Nature	S8P3	MS-PS2-2
9 th – 12 th Grade	Putting the Bio in Biodiversity	SEC3, SB5	HS-LS2-6, HS-LS2-8

*For more detailed information about themes, please visit our website:
zooatlanta.org/program-type/instructor-led-field-trips

REGISTRATION

- Educational group reservations must be made at least five weeks prior to program date.
- Non-refundable deposit of \$50 is due at the time of reservation.
- Minimum group size is 10 with a maximum of 80 per session.
- Payment is due at least four weeks prior to the date of your visit.
- All cancellations forfeit the \$50 deposit.
- Educational groups will not receive refunds for rain.



ZOOMOBILE



Scan this QR code or visit
zoatlanta.org/zoomobile for
more information about ZooMobiles!

Let the Zoo come to YOU! Learn all about wildlife and wild places without leaving your classroom. This popular program gives your students a connection to animals and conservation while complementing your curriculum. All programs are aligned with Georgia Standards of Excellence and include live animal encounters and engaging activities.

ZooMobile programs are designed for Pre-K to 12th grade. Make the most of the Zoo's visit by booking up to three 45-minute programs.

PreK – 1st Grade Program Pricing

ONE SESSION: \$360 TWO SESSIONS: \$475 THREE SESSIONS: \$590

Grade Level	Themes	GSE	NGSS	Duration
PreK	Wild Features	SKL2		30 minute program
K – 1 st Grade	Beastly Basics	S1L1	K-LS1-1	

2nd – 12th Grade Program Pricing

ONE SESSION: \$400 TWO SESSIONS: \$515 THREE SESSIONS: \$630

Grade Level	Themes	GSE	NGSS	Duration
2 nd Grade	Gotta Grow Up	S2L1	2-LS2-2	45 minute program
3 rd - 4 th Grade	Georgia Goes Wild	S3L1	3-LS4-3	
5 th Grade	What Vertebrate Am I?	S5L1	5-LS2-1	
6 th - 8 th Grade	Discovering Biomes	S7L4	MS-LS2-3	
9 th - 12 th Grade	Endangered Species	SEV2, SEV4	HS-LS2-2, HS-ESS3-1	

- Select a start time from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; sessions last from 30 to 45 minutes depending on the grade level. Multiple programs must run consecutively.
- Requested location must be within a **65-mile radius or one-hour driving distance of Zoo Atlanta**.
- Educational group reservations must be made at least five weeks prior to program date.
- Non-refundable deposit of \$50 is due at the time of reservation.
- Maximum of 60 participants per session.
- Payment is due at least four weeks prior to the date of your visit.
- All cancellations forfeit the \$50 deposit.

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

When you cannot visit the Zoo, connect with us and enrich your curriculum virtually. Through a Virtual Field Trip, connect your students to animals, careers, conservation, and all things Zoo Atlanta. Aligned with the GSE and the NGSS, options are available for engaging students in STEM concepts as they learn about Zoo Atlanta's animal ambassadors and conservation initiatives. Programs may be customized to meet your curricular needs with advance notice at the time of booking.

VIRTUAL WILD WALK

45 minutes | \$400

This live virtual tour focuses on visits to multiple on-grounds animal ambassadors with live interaction with a Zoo Educator. Observe animals in action and allow your students to witness the wonders of wildlife from the comfort of your classroom. This virtual option is an alternative to the in-person Wild Walk programs. See pages 5-6 for Wild Walk themes and their alignment with the GSE and NGSS.

PANDA-MONIUM!: It's Not All Black and White

45 minutes | \$400

Join us for this intriguing program where students will uncover the unique attributes of these rare and remarkable species. Discover the differences between red pandas and giant pandas when you meet with a live Zoo Educator and gain access to behind-the-scenes videos and pictures of these bamboo-loving creatures. From their adaptations to their successful conservation story, pandas have climbed their way into our hearts and hopefully into yours.

IVAN – Wild Within

45 minutes | \$400

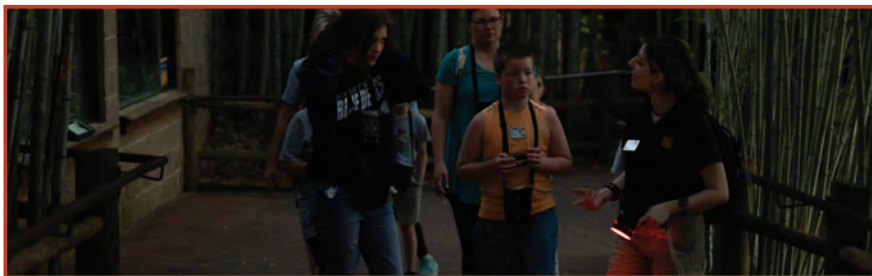
Beyond the pages of the book and off the big screen, Ivan the gorilla has a larger story to share with the world about his remarkable journey from Africa to Atlanta and the incredible legacy he left behind. In this 45-minute program, students will have the opportunity to see photos and video and hear recorded stories about Ivan's upbringing and time at Zoo Atlanta while engaging with a live Zoo Educator to answer questions and learn more about gorillas and how they can help save the species.

For more information, visit:

zooatlanta.org/virtualfieldtrips



SCHOOL AND GROUP NIGHTCRAWLERS



Calling all night owls! Spend the night at Zoo Atlanta for a nocturnal adventure you won't soon forget! Participants will explore the Zoo at night by the light of the moon, go behind the scenes to see how we care for animals, take part in engaging activities, explore the Zoo using night vision scopes, and engage in fun educational activities about wildlife. In the morning, enjoy a continental breakfast catered by Proof of the Pudding and take a ride on the Endangered Species Carousel. Participants will spend the majority of the evening within the Zoo and will sleep in indoor, climate-controlled rooms. Zoo admission is included to stay and enjoy the Zoo the following day after breakfast and morning activities.

Grades 1ST-12TH | \$110 per person

REGISTRATION

- Educational group reservations must be made at least five weeks prior to program date.
- Non-refundable deposit of \$50 is due at the time of reservation.
- Payment is due at least four weeks prior to the date of your visit.
- All cancellations forfeit the \$50 deposit.

Scouts, please reach out to learn how our lessons connect to your Petals, Badges, Adventure Loops, and Pins!



Scan this QR Code for a Nightcrawler Preview Video!



EDUCATOR EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Educator Events

EDUCATOR SOIRÉE | October 4, 2025

Stroll the Zoo after hours as you unwind and enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvres as well as beer and wine for purchase. Get up close to wildlife with animal encounters and keeper presentations. Meet Zoo Educators, network with fellow teachers, and learn about opportunities to bring the Zoo into your classroom. This exclusive event is open to teachers and one guest.

EDUCATOR APPRECIATION DAY | March 14, 2026

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a day at the Zoo designed just for you. On this day, educators receive free admission and discounted admission for accompanying guests. Spend time interacting with Zoo Educators at activity stations where participants can engage in fun, science-based conservation exploration.

Educator Resources

EDUCATION POSTER (FREE Resource)

With a long history of conservation and research projects, Zoo Atlanta is continuously learning about the natural world and the ways we can better understand wildlife and conserve species. Our annual Education Poster highlights conservation and research projects and brings the science into your classroom.

ZOO2YOU (FREE Resource)

Bring the Zoo to You! If you are looking for additional classroom resources, check out Zoo2You, a series of videos and activities for teachers, students and parents that explore concepts aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Science.

CASES FOR CONSERVATION (FREE Resource)

These toolkits, filled with curriculum, biofacts and other Zoo-related materials, provide educational experiences about wildlife and wild places for students in Pre-K to 7th Grade. Topics vary by grade, and Cases for Conservation are free to borrow. They can be checked out from the Zoo for a two-week period and utilized in your classroom, just like checking out a book from a library.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Let the Zoo host a teacher professional development session just for your school or organization! Programs are standards-focused but may be adapted to fit additional grade levels and subjects. Teachers will enhance their STEM curriculum and discuss how to incorporate Project Based Learning into their curriculum while exploring the Zoo to identify cross-curricular concepts. Let us host a session for your team at the Zoo, or we can come to you.

To learn more, please reach out to education@zooatlanta.org or visit zooatlanta.org/teacher-resources



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



EDUCATION VOLUNTEER

Adults 18 years old & up

Zoo Atlanta's Education Department is seeking educators who have a passion for sharing their knowledge with others of all ages and backgrounds. Education Volunteers interact with Zoo guests to help share our mission and vision of saving wildlife and their habitats. If you have a passion for conservation, biology or environmental science, this is the volunteer opportunity for you! Education Volunteers work directly with the Education Department at Zoo Atlanta, supporting programs such as our giraffe feeding experience, animal interpretation or conservation-focused events. Volunteers in this program focus on service opportunities that involve interacting with Zoo guests. This is a great way to meet new people, have fun and help educate others about topics that are important to you.

EVENTS

Adults 18 years old & up

Our Event Volunteers assist with Public Events and Special Events throughout the year. Event Volunteers are a critical part of Zoo Atlanta's most exciting events, including The Beastly Feast; Boo at the Zoo; Brew at the Zoo; and more! Volunteers can assist with both daytime and evening events. Duties will vary depending on the event, but Volunteers can expect to facilitate educational activities, offer directional assistance, collect event tickets, distribute materials, and assist with other tasks. Flexible scheduling – sign up to support events that align with your schedule!

TEENS

Ages 14 – 17

The Volunteer Program is designed to support teenagers as they explore and pursue careers in zoology, conservation and related fields. This program promotes the personal and professional development of teenagers to become leaders. This program is an opportunity for teenagers to have fun volunteering while learning about the environment, wildlife conservation, community engagement, and professionalism. Volunteers develop their social skills, identity and independence, and can make a difference with causes they are knowledgeable and passionate about. Applications for this program are accepted in January. The program year begins in June.



Scan this QR Code for
Volunteer Opportunities!

TESTIMONIALS



“ Our tour guide was AMAZING!! Very knowledgeable and great at keeping students engaged. ”



“ It was the first time many of our students had ever been to a zoo. They were highly engaged and it made the culmination of our animal unit complete. They were able to actually see the animals and learn more information. A TRUE hands-on opportunity! ”



“ It was so cool to learn more about all of the animals. I also loved how they brought up conservation and sustainability, because those are efforts we need to focus on, and it's good to educate the next generation on those things. ”



THANK YOU TO OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMMING SUPPORTERS.



Besse Johnson & George Blanton
Allen Memorial Foundation

The Atlanta Foundation

Clark and Ruby Baker Foundation

George M Brown Fund of Atlanta

Mary Brown Fund of Atlanta

Connolly Family Foundation

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