

**ZOO ATLANTA**

# SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE 2026 - 2027

**ZOO SOMETHING ENLIGHTENING!**



# A WILD YEAR AWAITS YOU!

## Dear Educators,

As you look ahead to a new school year and all the possibilities it brings, we hope you'll keep Zoo Atlanta in mind as a partner in teaching and learning. More than a place to see amazing animals from around the world, Zoo Atlanta is a space for students to build meaningful connections with nature, investigate adaptations, deepen observation skills, and discover how science, learning, and fun can come together. A visit to the Zoo offers opportunities to integrate science, math, literacy, and the arts into one engaging experience—full of curiosity, discovery, and wonder. Here, students can also learn about diverse careers and explore the ways Zoo Atlanta is working to protect wildlife and wild places across the globe.

Our mission is to “save wildlife and their habitats through conservation, research, education and engaging experiences. Our efforts connect people to animals and inspire conservation action.” Through our Education Programs, we help cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards, engineers, researchers, educators, and problem-solvers. Every Education Program is directly aligned to the Georgia Standards of Excellence, with many highlighting crosscutting concepts and providing teacher resources to support learning before and after your visit.

As you browse the pages ahead, you'll find a wide variety of programs created with you and your students in mind. You may choose to explore the Zoo at your own pace on a **Self Guided Field Trip**, using our grade level Explore Guides, or join our Educators on a guided **Wild Walk** filled with stories and insights about the animals in our care. Our **Zoo Challenges** immerse students in inquiry-based learning and collaborative problem-solving. For those interested in STEM career connections, we invite you to tour **The Rollins Animal Health Center** and the **Animal Nutrition Kitchen** on a **Working for Wildlife** tour. And if traveling isn't an option, let the Zoo come to you through our **ZooMobile** outreach program.

Whatever your instructional goals may be, we are here to support you. Visit [zoatlanta.org/teachers](https://zoatlanta.org/teachers) to explore a variety of **FREE** Teacher Resources, including information about the **Sponsored Admissions Program** for Title 1 Schools.

Please save the date for two events just for YOU! In the fall, attend the **Educator Soirée**, an exclusive after-hours, adults-only event. In the spring, enjoy free admission for yourself and discounted admission for your family and friends at **Educator Appreciation Day**. And don't forget to enjoy our special educator discount on Zoo Atlanta Memberships just for Georgia educators.

We wish you a great year ahead and hope to connect with you and your students 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 at [zooatlanta.org/learn/schools-groups/](http://zooatlanta.org/learn/schools-groups/)
- You will receive one FREE adult chaperone ticket per every 10 students. Additional adults pay the same rate as students.
- For more information, please contact the Education Department at 404.624.5822 or [education@zooatlanta.org](mailto: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/](http://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](mailto:specialevents@zooatlanta.org) or at 404.624.5995. Orders must be placed at least 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 TRIPS



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. Or embark upon the **Seedling Sleuth Challenge** with your students to solve a mystery while learning about the complex relationships between animals and plants. Access these and other FREE educational tools on our **Teacher Resources** page!

**Grades PreK-12 | \$14.99 per person**

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

**To learn more and register, please visit our website:**

[zooatlanta.org/program-type/self-guided-field-trips/](http://zooatlanta.org/program-type/self-guided-field-trips/)

# 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](http://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.

**GSE:** CD-SC3; SKL2; S1L1; S2L1; S3L1; S4L1; S5L2

**NGSS:** K-LS1-1; 1-LS1-1; 2-LS4-1; 3-LS4-2; 4-LS1-1; 5-PS3-1

#### 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.

**GSE:** S6E4; S7L4; S8P2

**NGSS:** MS-LS2-2

#### 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.

**GSE:** SB5; SB6; SEC1; SEC5; SEV1; SEV4; SZ4

**NGSS:** HS-LS2-2; HS-LS4-4

#### 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, and learn how animals and nature 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!



**To learn more and register, please visit our website:**

[zooatlanta.org/program/wild-walks-schools-groups/](http://zooatlanta.org/program/wild-walks-schools-groups/)

# WORKING FOR WILDLIFE

*A 90-minute guided tour of Zoo Atlanta's public and behind-the-scenes spaces to learn about careers in zoos.*



From Animal Care and Veterinary Medicine to Horticulture, Marketing, Events, and more, Zoo Atlanta is home to a wide variety of skilled professionals who help the Zoo thrive every day. During this program, students will explore the exciting and varied career paths available at modern accredited zoos while learning what it takes to work in this dynamic field.

The experience includes a guided tour to explore animals and careers in the Zoo and a behind-the-scenes adventure 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 the Zoo.

*Please note: The behind-the-scenes portion of this tour is not fully ADA accessible.*

**Grades 3-12 | \$24.99 per person**

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

**START TIMES:** 10 a.m. or 12 p.m. | **DURATION:** 90 minutes



**To learn more and register, please visit our website:**

[zooatlanta.org/program/field-trips-working-for-wildlife](https://zooatlanta.org/program/field-trips-working-for-wildlife)

# ZOO CHALLENGE



Enhance your Zoo Field Trip with our Educator-led programs, designed to inspire curiosity and spark discovery for students in Pre-K to 12th grade. Through engaging, inquiry-based exploration, our programs help students build meaningful connections with wildlife and wild places while supporting your classroom curriculum and the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Science.

Whether you are seeking to provide your students with real-world understanding of animal basic needs, scientific classification, or the ways species diversity relates to the stability of ecosystems, you can choose the program that best fits your curriculum, your students, and your learning goals!

**Grades K – 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 <sup>st</sup> Grade	The Needs to Succeed	SKL1	K-LS1-1
		S1L1	1-LS1-1
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Hope for Habitats	S2E3	2-LS4-1
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Feel the Heat	S3P1	4-LS1-1
		S4L1	
5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sorting Species	S5L1	MS-LS1-5
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Scientifically Speaking	S7L1	MS-LS4-2
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Force of Nature	S8P3	MS-PS2-2
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Putting the Bio in Biodiversity	SEC3	HS-LS2-6
		SB5	HS-LS2-8

**To learn more and register, please visit our website:**

[zooatlanta.org/program/field-trips-zoo-challenge](http://zooatlanta.org/program/field-trips-zoo-challenge)



# ZOOMOBILE



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: \$375    TWO SESSIONS: \$490    THREE SESSIONS: \$605**

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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Program Pricing

**ONE SESSION: \$415    TWO SESSIONS: \$530    THREE SESSIONS: \$645**

Grade Level	Themes	GSE	NGSS	Duration
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Gotta Grow Up	S2L1	2-LS2-2	45 minute program
3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Georgia Goes Wild	S3L1	3-LS4-3	
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	What Vertebrate Am I?	S5L1	5-LS2-1	
6 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Discovering Biomes	S7L4	MS-LS2-3	
9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> 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.**

**To learn more and register, please visit our website:**

[zooatlanta.org/program-type/zoo-mobile-outreach/](http://zooatlanta.org/program-type/zoo-mobile-outreach/)

# VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

Can't make it to the Zoo? Bring the Zoo to your classroom virtually to connect with us and enrich your curriculum. Through a Virtual Field Trip, your class can explore animals, careers, conservation, and all things Zoo Atlanta—right from your classroom. 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 page 5 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.

**To learn more and register,  
please visit our website:**

[zooatlanta.org/virtualfieldtrips](http://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! Join a Zoo Educator for a **guided nighttime exploration** of the Zoo, including exclusive **behind-the-scenes** access to discover how we care for animals every day. Learn about our new state-of-the-art veterinary complex, **The Rollins Animal Health Center**, and tour the **Animal Nutrition Kitchen** to find out what it takes to feed the Zoo!\*

Your overnight experience also features a guided tour of **Scaly Slimy Spectacular**, hands-on fun with **night vision technology**, a ride on the **Endangered Species Carousel**, and climate-controlled sleeping rooms. Wake up to a catered continental breakfast from **Proof of the Pudding**, followed by morning visits to animal habitats to see how our Animal Care Specialists help the animals start their day!

Participating groups are invited to stay and enjoy the Zoo at completion of your program!

*\*The behind-the-scenes portion of the tour is not fully ADA accessible.*

**Grades 1<sup>ST</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> | \$110 per person**

**To learn more and register, please visit our website:**  
[zooatlanta.org/program/nightcrawlers-schools-and-groups/](http://zooatlanta.org/program/nightcrawlers-schools-and-groups/)



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 3, 2026

Stroll the Zoo after hours as you unwind and enjoy the magical experience of exploring the Zoo at twilight in this adults-only event. 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 13, 2027

Bring your family and friends and enjoy a day at the Zoo designed just for you. On this day, educators receive **free** admission, with discounted admission for up to four 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 Education Posters highlight conservation and research projects and bring 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](mailto:education@zooatlanta.org)  
**or visit** [zooatlanta.org/teacher-resources](http://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



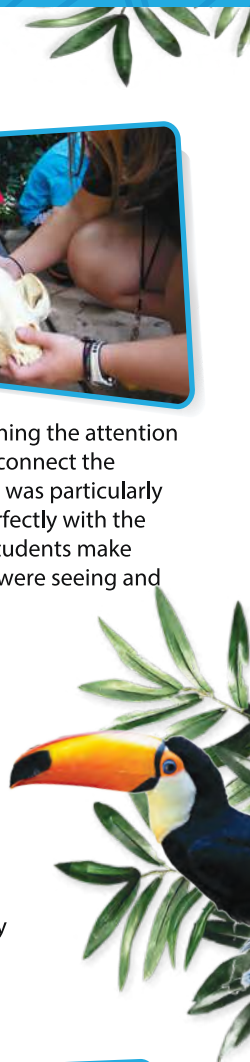
“ Our Educator did an outstanding job maintaining the attention and engagement of the group. Her ability to connect the animals we observed to STEM-related careers was particularly impactful. This approach not only aligned perfectly with the STEM focus of the program but also helped students make meaningful connections between what they were seeing and potential future career paths. ”



“ Our Educators were very knowledgeable and kind! They interacted very well with the students. They made the information fun, and students had a great time. ”



“ The Educator’s energy, clarity, and classroom management skills were exceptional. She brought enthusiasm and professionalism that made the educational content both accessible and memorable for the students. Thank you again for such a well-run and educational program. ”





## THANK YOU TO OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMMING SUPPORTERS.



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