

ZOO ATLANTA

2023-2024

SCHOOL PROGRAM GUIDE



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more information!

ZOO ATLANTA IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU!

Dear Educators,

Welcome to a great year ahead! As we look back on the last few years, we applaud you for all the hard work you have put in to create meaningful learning experiences for your students. Whether you relied upon Zoo Atlanta during the pandemic for teacher resources and virtual programs, or whether you have not visited the Zoo since you were a youth on a school field trip, we invite you to explore all that we have to offer. 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. Zoo Atlanta's mission, to "save wildlife and their habitats through conservation, research, education, and engaging experiences," embodies the notion that we want our next generation to grow up as future 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.

Whether you choose to come to us for a Wild Walk or Zoo Challenge program or have us travel to you via ZooMobile or connect virtually, we are here to support you and your students. Check out our website for a number of Teacher Resources, including our Cases for Conservation, Self-guided Field Trip resources, Education Poster, and Sponsored Admissions Program, to name a few.

And while we welcome you and your students to the Zoo, mark your calendars 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 Family Appreciation Day. Lastly, every day we have a special discount on Membership just for Georgia educators.

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

With gratitude,

Staci Wiech

Senior Director of Education

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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.
- Bus parking is not available in the City of Atlanta public parking lots on Cherokee Avenue and Boulevard. As such, we recommend that buses park on the street. Offsite bus parking is available at the Marshalling Yard at 362 Ivan Allen Jr. Boulevard, Atlanta, GA, 30313. For more information including pricing, visit gwcc.parkingguide.com/marshalling-yard-parking/. Use the access code "zooatlbus".
- 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, whole fruit, cookie and a drink! 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 and 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! Add to the educational experience before and after your visit with our standards-based curriculum guides and grade-specific activities found on our website.

Grades PreK–12 | \$13.99 per person

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 \$13.99.
- You will receive one FREE adult chaperone ticket per every 10 students.
- 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 \$13.99 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

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 | \$19.99

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

PreK – 1st: 60 minutes | 2nd – 12th: 90 minutes

Grade Level(s)	Program Themes	NGSS	GSE
PreK	Fur, Feather & Scales	K-LS1-1	CD-SC3
K – 1 st Grade	The Needs to Succeed	LS1.A, K-LS1-1	SKP1, S1L1
2 nd Grade	Hope for Habitats	2-LS4-1	S2E3
3 rd – 4 th Grade	Feel the Heat	4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2	S3P1, S4L1
5 th – 6 th Grade	Sorting Species	MS-LS1-5	S5L1
7 th Grade	Scientifically Speaking	MS-LS4-2	S7L1
8 th Grade	Force of Nature	MS-PS2-2	S8P3
9 th – 12 th Grade	Putting the Bio in Biodiversity	HS-LS2-8, HS-LS2-6	SEC3, SB5

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.

WILD WALKS

Take a walk on the wild side as Zoo Educators lead you on a guided tour through the Zoo to discover amazing animals from around the world. During these exclusive tours, the guides will share fun facts and interesting stories for an inside scoop on what it's like to care for these animals. All tours can be tailored to cover grade-specific standards with advance notice.

Grades PreK – 12 | \$17.99 per person

START TIMES: 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.

PreK – 12th: 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; MS-LS4

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

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 amazing 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.

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

When you cannot visit the Zoo, connect with us and enrich your curriculum virtually. Harnessing technology as the vehicle, connect your students to animals, careers, conservation, and all things Zoo Atlanta through a Virtual Field Trip. Aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), options are available for engaging students in STEM concepts as they learn about Zoo Atlanta’s animal ambassadors and conservation initiatives.

All programs are facilitated by Zoo Atlanta Educators through an online platform and include standards-based curriculum to supplement the program. Programs are designed for classes of up to 30 students. Programs may be adaptable to other grade levels with advance notice at time of booking.

Grades PreK–12

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. *This virtual option is an alternative to the in-person Wild Walk programs.*

Grade Level(s)	Program Themes	NGSS	GSE
K – 5th Grade	Amazing Adaptations	K-LS1-1	SKL2
		1-LS3-1	S1L1
		2-LS4-1	S3L1
		3-LS3-1	S5L2
		4-LS1-1	
6th – 8th Grade	Food for Thought	MS-LS2-1	S7L4
9th – 12th Grade	Living Laboratory	HS-LS2-7	SB5a



Scan this QR Code for a
Virtual Field Trips Preview Video!

VIRTUAL ZOO CHALLENGE

60 minutes | \$500

Students will take a live virtual tour of Zoo Atlanta with a focus on multiple on-grounds animal ambassadors, videos of animals exhibiting specific behaviors, and up-close animal encounters all hosted by Zoo Educators. *This virtual option is an alternative to the in-person Zoo Challenge programs.*

Grade Level(s)	Program Themes	NGSS	GSE
PreK	Fur, Feather & Scales	K-LS1-1	CD-SC3
K – 1 st Grade	The Needs to Succeed	LS1.A, K-LS1-1	SKP1, S1L1
2 nd Grade	Hope for Habitats	2-LS4-1	S2E3
3 rd – 4 th Grade	Feel the Heat	4-LS1-1, 4-LS1-2	S3P1, S4L1
5 th – 6 th Grade	Sorting Species	MS-LS1-5	S5L1
7 th Grade	Scientifically Speaking	MS-LS4-2	S7L1
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Panda-monium!: It’s not all Black and White with Giant Pandas

45 minutes | \$400

Zoo Atlanta is one of three zoos in the United States to house giant pandas. Join us for this 45-minute program where students will uncover the unique attributes of this 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.



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: \$360 **TWO SESSIONS:** \$475 **THREE SESSIONS:** \$590

Grade Level	Themes	GSE	NGSS	Duration
PreK	Wild Features	SK12		30 minute program
K – 1 st Grade	Beastly Basics	S1L1	K-LS1	

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	45 minute program
3 rd - 4 th Grade	Georgia Goes Wild	S3L1	3-LS4	
5 th Grade	What Vertebrate Am I?	S5L1	5-LS2	
6 th - 8 th Grade	Discovering Biomes	S7L4	MS-LS2	
9 th - 12 th Grade	Endangered Species	SEV2, SEV4	HS-LS2, HS-ESS3	

- 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.
- Minimum group size is 10 with a maximum of 60 per session.
- Payment is due at least four weeks prior to the date of your visit.
- All cancellations forfeit the \$50 deposit.

SCHOOL AND GROUP NIGHTCRAWLER

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, 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. Stay and enjoy the Zoo the following day after breakfast and morning activities.

Grades 1ST–12TH | \$100 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, Belt Loops, and Pins!



Scan this QR Code for a
Nightcrawler Preview Video!



EDUCATOR EVENTS AND RESOURCES

Educator Events

EDUCATOR SOIRÉE | October 7, 2023

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 event is exclusive for teachers only.

EDUCATOR FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY | March 9, 2024

Bring your family 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 families can engage in fun, science-based, conservation exploration.

Educator Resources

EDUCATION POSTER

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. Through the annual Education Poster, Zoo Atlanta highlights conservation and research projects and brings the science into your classroom.

ZOO2YOU

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

These toolkits, which are filled with curriculum, biofacts and other Zoo-related materials, provide educational experiences about wildlife and wild places for students in grades 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

Looking for exciting and engaging ways to connect your classroom curriculum to conservation, research and wildlife? Let us host a session for your team at the Zoo, or we can come to you. Each session can be tailored to meet your curricular needs while exploring unique phenomena found in nature.



Scan this QR Code
for Teacher Resources!

To learn more, please reach out to education@zooatlanta.org.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



TEENS

The Volunteer Program promotes the personal and professional development of teenagers so that they may become leaders in animal science and conservation education. The Volunteer Program is designed for students ages 14 to 17. It 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.

EDUCATION VOLUNTEER

Volunteering at Zoo Atlanta is a great way to learn about conservation issues, get to know others who share your passion for wildlife, give back to our community, or just have fun! Our Education Volunteer Program is focused on service opportunities that involve interacting with guests. It is designed for those interested in a longer-term commitment. Education Volunteers work directly with the Education Department at Zoo Atlanta, supporting programs such as our giraffe feeding experience or conservation-focused events. Advanced training is available for those interested in offering Habitat Interpretation around the Zoo. We seek applicants with a desire to teach others about conservation and Zoo Atlanta's mission. Training is provided, and Volunteers can progress through the program at their own pace.

EVENTS

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; IllumiNights at the Zoo: A Chinese Lantern Festival; 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.



Scan this QR Code for
Volunteer Opportunities!



“ The students enjoyed the animals and the zoo. Being able to see the animals first hand was a great experience for them. ”



“ The students were in awe about their visit to the Zoo and I definitely think that the experience increased their appreciation and enthusiasm for science, wildlife and conservation. ”



“ My students were eager to learn about all of the wildlife contained in the zoo. They asked questions and expressed enthusiasm for learning new information about the animals they saw. ”





THANK YOU TO OUR EDUCATION
PROGRAMMING SUPPORTERS.

THE ARTHUR M. BLANK
FAMILY FOUNDATION





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