We are so happy that you chose the Chattanooga Zoo for your Student’s learning adventure! This parent packet is designed to answer any questions you may have and to help create the best experience for your student. In the pages below you will find contact information, basic Zooniversity information, and an overview of our behavior policy and action plan. We also have included information regarding the policies we are implementing by requirement of federal, state, and local authorities to slow the spread of COVID-19. By sending your child to Zooniversity, you are agreeing to all policies stated in this document. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call the Zooniversity Contact listed below.

TESSA VANCE
Group Programs Coordinator
tvance@chattzoo.org
423-697-1322 ext. 7595
The Chattanooga Zoo is implementing the following policies required of their staff and facility to ensure the health and safety of students:

- Daily health and temperature screenings of all staff members
- Face masks worn by education staff at all times
- Frequent hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer
- Classes limited to 15 students and limited mixing between groups
- Cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces at least every 2 hours
- Ensuring students have their own individual supplies for activities throughout the day to limit sharing of items
- Disinfecting items between uses or providing students with gloves if disinfecting is not possible and/or there are not enough supplies for every student to have their own
The Chattanooga Zoo is implementing the following policies required of students and their parents/guardians. Please take the time to discuss and explain the importance of these policies with your student(s):

- Daily health and temperature screenings of students and adults at check-in
- Students who are vulnerable or at-risk for COVID-19 are strongly encouraged not to attend class (please contact tvance@chattzoo.org if this is a concern)
- Face masks strongly encouraged – distancing the recommended 6 ft. at all times during class may be difficult within groups of 15
- Frequent hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer
- Touch opportunities during animal meet and greets prohibited until further notice to ensure the health and safety of our animals
- Limit physical interactions (handshakes, high-fives, hugs, tagging, etc.)
- Limit sharing of items
- Leave toys/games/cards from home at home
FURTHER INFORMATION AND GOVERNING AUTHORITY LITERATURE

• CDC.gov - Considerations for schools
• CDC.gov - Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility
Zooniversity: Homeschool Series is an hour and 30-minute-long class that combines hands on experimentation and classroom instruction that allows students to explore a variety of topics spanning zoology, geology, ecology, biology, botany, physics, astronomy, meteorology, life science, and general scientific inquiry skills.

Students are divided by the grade levels they are working in: K-2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd}-5\textsuperscript{th}, and 6\textsuperscript{th} – 8\textsuperscript{th}. Expand your learning with take-home experiments, crafts, and activity sheets provided by Zoo staff.
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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>K-2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;-5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<td>August 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Zoology 101</td>
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<td>August 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Junior Vet-Tech</td>
<td>Zootrition</td>
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<td>September 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Zootrition</td>
<td>Junior Vet-Tech</td>
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<td>September 24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Animal Physiology: Digestive</td>
<td>Animal Physiology: Muscular</td>
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<td>October 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Animal Physiology: Skeletal</td>
<td>Animal Physiology: Digestive</td>
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<td>October 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Animal Physiology: Muscular</td>
<td>What’s in Their Genes?</td>
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<td>November 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>What’s in Their Genes?</td>
<td>Expansion Expedition</td>
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<td>November 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Expansion Expedition</td>
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<td>August 20&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Zoology 101</td>
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<td>September 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>September 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Veterinary Science</td>
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<td>October 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Animal Physiology: Muscular</td>
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<td>October 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Animal Physiology: Digestive</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>What’s in Their Genes?</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Expansion Expedition</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CSI: Zoo</td>
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Check-in and check out for Zooniversity is located in the back of the Zoo, the old Zoo entrance off McCallie Ave. Turn into the Warner Fields complex, take a right at the stop sign, and continue to the parking lot behind the baseball fields. There will be a staff member at the open gate by our education building to welcome your student into the Zoo.

**Morning Class:**
- Class runs 10:30am - 12:00pm
- Back gates open at 10:10am and close at 10:35am
- Gates reopen at 12:00pm for pick-up and will close at 12:15pm.

**Afternoon Class:**
- Class runs 1:30pm – 3:00pm
- Back gates open at 1:10pm and close at 1:35pm
- Gates reopen at 3:00pm for pick-up and will close at 3:15pm.
# CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

## CHECK-IN

- Adults must park and accompany their student to the back gate of the Zoo where staff will be waiting to check your student in.
- Your student will have their temperature taken with a no-touch thermometer. If they have a temperature above 100.4 they will not be admitted into homeschool class.
- You will sign a waiver stating that neither you nor your student have exhibited any symptoms related to COVID-19 or come into contact with anyone exhibiting symptoms related to or testing positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
- You will check in and check your child(ren)’s authorized pick-ups to see if any last minute changes need to be made.
- If you are going to be late checking in, please call ahead so that we can be prepared for your arrival.
**CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT**

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<tr>
<td>In order to make the student pick-up process run more smoothly, we are asking that all adults approved for student pick-up are listed on the Student Permission Pick-Up form at the time of registration.</td>
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If the adult arriving for pick-up is not one of the listed parent/guardians, Zoo staff will ask for their ID to check against the information provided in the Student Permission Pick-Up form. We will not release students to individuals who are not listed until we have your permission.

- Check-out will occur at the same gate as check-in.
- Please park and wait outside of the gate until the gate opens
- Walk to the gate and a zoo staff member will check to see if you are on the approved pick-up list and then direct you to which building your student is located in.
- Please do not enter the building as to limit exposure. Your student will be sent out to you
At the Zoo We:

• **ARE RESPECTFUL**. Treat others like you would like to be treated. We are respectful to our fellow classmates, instructors, and other Zoo Staff, animals that live at the Zoo as well as the nature around us, Zoo property and equipment, and ourselves!
• **LISTEN** to our fellow classmates, instructors, and other Zoo Staff.
• **KEEP OUR HANDS TO OURSELVES**. Hands are for helping each other – not hurting. We will never use our hands, feet or other objects to hurt another living thing. We will do our best not to touch others or their items.
• **STICK TOGETHER**. Always stay with your group! We have more fun when everyone is together.
• **WALK**. When we run, we can lose our group, trip and fall, hurt ourselves or hurt others.
Zoo Instructors are experienced in working with children, and are trained in handling all types of behavior. However, we do recognize that children don’t always follow the rules, and in these cases, we have a specific behavior action plan that our instructors will follow.

1. Instructors will first give a warning and reminder of the rules. They will suggest an alternate behavior that is acceptable.
2. Instructors will require the student to take a break or sit out from an activity.
3. Instructors will call a parent or guardian to discuss the behavior with their student.
If a student’s behavior is endangering the safety of others or is continually disrupting activities, a student may be sent home/and or asked not to return to. Refunds will not be issued in these cases.

If there is an incident involving your student an instructor will speak to you and your student about any disciplinary actions that were taken.
## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

### MINOR INJURIES

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<th>MINOR INJURIES</th>
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<tr>
<td>All of education staff members are First Aid certified and will handle minor injuries during class. You will be notified at the end of class of any minor scrapes or bruises.</td>
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### SERIOUS INJURIES OR ILLNESS

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<th>SERIOUS INJURIES OR ILLNESS</th>
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<td>If a serious injury or illness occurs, emergency services will be contacted first, if necessary. We will then notify the registered parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, we will then reach out to the emergency contact listed and go through the authorized pick-up list.</td>
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If you would like to add an additional emergency contact not on the list, please email tvance@chattzoo.org or education@chattzoo.org. You may also add an emergency contact at check in.
In Case of Emergency

**COVID-19 OR RELATED ILLNESSES**

In order to comply with federal, state, and local requirements, students exhibiting any COVID-19 related symptoms while in class will be isolated from their group and others and parents/guardians will be notified to pick up their child. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, we will then reach out to the emergency contact listed and go through the authorized pick-up list.

Parents/guardians of other students in the class will be notified that another student was sent home with symptoms, but the student’s personal information will not be disclosed.

As stated on [CDC.gov - When You Can be Around Others](https://www.cdc.gov), students will not be allowed back to class until:

- 3 days with no fever without fever reducing medication AND
- Symptoms improved AND
- 14 days since symptoms first appeared

OR if you will be tested:

- No fever AND
- Symptoms have improved AND
- Receive two negative test results in a row, at least 24 hours apart

Refunds will be issued upon request for missed days of class in the event of illness.
Q: Are classes ever canceled and what would happen if so?
A: We follow the Hamilton County Department of Education and in the event of a school closure, we would cancel our class as well. If classes are ever canceled, you will be notified via email and the class date will be rescheduled.

Q: Can I participate with my student?
A: We ask that parents do not stay with their child during the class period. Parents are welcome to visit the Zoo for free while their student is in class.

Q: Where will my students be during class?
A: K-2nd grades will be based out of the log cabin and new Hellbender Salamander building while 3rd -5th and 6th – 8th grade will be based out of the Education Center. We will start class in these locations and then travel to different places throughout the Zoo depending on the lesson plan for the day.
**FAQs**

| Q: Can we visit the Zoo after the class is completed? | A: Admission to the Zoo is not included with the class fee. If you would like to visit the Zoo after class, you may do so through the front gates. |
| Do students take home worksheets? | A: Students will get to take home different types of worksheets and crafts. |
| What curriculum standards do you use to write lesson plans? | A: We utilize Tennessee Academic State Standards for Science, Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and Tennessee Early Learning Development Standards. |
| Where can I find a copy of the lesson plans? | A: Lesson plans are included in the weekly Zooniversity newsletter. Feel free to also email Tessa at tvance@chattzoo.org for a copy of the lesson plans. |
WE CAN’T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

By sending them to Zooniversity, you agree to all information provided in this packet. If you have any questions regarding the information provided here, please contact Tessa at tvance@chattzoo.org