

EDUCATION PROGRAM GUIDE

CHATTANOOGA ZOO

GROUP VISIT FACTS
ON & OFFSITE PROGRAMS
ZOO CAMPS
HOMESCHOOL SERVICES
SCOUT & TEEN PROGRAMS
WORKSHOPS & EVENTS
TWILIGHT PROGRAMS



GETTING STARTED

WWW.CHATTZOO.ORG | 423-697-1322

Chattanooga Zoo was founded in 1937 and has been supported by the Friends of the Zoo since the 1980s. It has been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums since 1998. Today, it is still one of the top 10% of animal exhibitors in the nation. Chattanooga Zoo prides itself on the role it plays within the community as a provider of low-cost quality education programs, accessible and rewarding volunteer opportunities, cutting-edge conservation research, and animal rehabilitation efforts. Education programs include outreach visits, where trained educators and ambassador animals meet school groups and underserved audiences including senior citizens and youths from child development facilities, and more.

>>> PLAN YOUR VISIT

With over 450 animals, representing over 150 different species, many of which are endangered, Chattanooga Zoo is committed to engaging and inspiring our community to better understand and preserve wildlife by creating meaningful connections between people and animals. Get face to face with a chimpanzee or jaguar, feed a giraffe, or check out some rare and venomous reptiles!

>>> ZOO AMENITIES

- School groups and field trips may use free bus parking.
- In addition to Wild Burger, our premier restaurant, you can also find multiple snack carts located throughout the park.
- Restrooms are located just inside Zoo gates, on the side of our Hiwassee Hellbender Research Facility, and by the Warner Park Ranch Petting Zoo. Family restrooms and adult changing stations are also available.

>>> ACCESSIBILITY

Chattanooga Zoo is committed to making zoos accessible to individuals with disabilities and other needs. To prepare for your visit, please see the accessibility page of our website where you will find more information about our offerings.

For more information on Zoo amenities and accessibility, visit:
<https://www.chattzoo.org/visit/amenities-accessibility>



»»» SCHOOL GROUPS «««

FIELD TRIP FAQs

»»» GROUP RESERVATIONS

Bring your school group, church, or civic group to Chattanooga Zoo! Daily group admissions are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Your group must have 15+ people. If you are a group of 50 or more, please inquire at groups@chattzoo.org. For school group rates, you must be an accredited public or private school, Head Start, pre-school or organized homeschool group.



SCHEDULING

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE SHOULD I PLAN?



Education programs, activities, and lunches are limited, so please book your trip at least 2 weeks in advance. At least 1-3 months in advance is recommended for visits in April and May.

The Zoo is open rain or shine. Please have your students dress accordingly. In the event that there is inclement weather on the morning of your visit, or if inclement weather is forecasted, we are more than happy to reschedule your group for a later date. To reschedule or cancel a field trip, contact us at 423-654-7648 or fieldtrips@chattzoo.org.



WHAT DO WE DO IF IT RAINS ON OUR VISIT?

HOW LONG SHOULD WE PLAN TO STAY?



In order to walk and visit most habitats it will take approximately 2 hours. Please note this does not include lunch, activities or educational programs.

In addition to a self-guided tour of the Zoo, you may book an **education program add-on** when you book your group visit. For an additional \$3 per student, you can meet a Zoo educator and several of our ambassador animals! For more information on our offerings, visit p. 7-8 of this brochure. You can also download field trip **scavenger hunts** at: chattzoo.org/education/field-trips



WHAT CAN SUPPLEMENT OUR FIELD TRIP?

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS FOR LUNCH?

OPTION 1: PURCHASE LUNCH THROUGH THE ZOO



Group meals provide a selection of pre-made lunches that can be pre-ordered and picked up at a designated time. Lunch instructions will be provided in your confirmation e-mail. If you choose not to pre-order you may wait in line and order from the menu.

If your group would prefer to bring your lunch, you may leave your coolers on the bus or in vehicles until your group gathers to eat. Chattanooga Zoo has picnic areas available on a first come, first served basis. Groups are permitted to exit the Zoo to eat lunch and re-enter to finish their trip.



OPTION 2: BRING YOUR LUNCH AND EAT OUTSIDE THE ZOO.

EXPECTATIONS

WHAT DOES CHECK-IN LOOK LIKE?



Buses will be directed to the circle in front of the Zoo for unloading. One teacher may check in. Zoo staff will get on buses to instruct where to go and provide rules for students and chaperones. After unloading, buses will be asked to park underneath the 3rd street bridge. Bus drivers can serve as one of the required chaperones to be eligible to receive free admission.

CAN NON-TEACHER ADULTS CHAPERONE?



Additional adults, that are not school staff, will be required to purchase their tickets online. All additional adults will be **REQUIRED** to wait for their children **INSIDE** the Zoo towards Wild Burger Cafe. Additional adults should park in the Zoo parking lots.

We do not need updated numbers prior to your visit unless needed for checks or purchase orders provided by the schools. We expect numbers to change slightly between registration and the day of your visit. The school must have one payment for the group. We can accept cash, checks, credit cards, and purchase orders from the school.



WHAT IF OUR GROUP NUMBERS CHANGE AND HOW DO WE PAY?

ON-SITE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES & EXPERIENCES

WHAT EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITES ARE INCLUDED?



We offer a daily schedule of keeper interactions. The animals being featured, times, and locations vary from day to day. Visit chattzoo.org for a complete schedule. In addition to our keeper interactions, we also offer education carts and ambassador animal meet & greets at various times and locations.

The Zoo offers Zoo Tours and WILD Encounters that must be booked in advance. Visit our website for offerings and booking details. We also offer giraffe feedings, train rides, and carousel rides that may be purchased day-of at the Zoo. Visit our website to learn more about our Zoo Bucks for food and retail purchases.



CAN WE PURCHASE ANY ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES?

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

WHAT IS APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR FOR OUR GROUP?



Our goal is to create an environment that is enjoyable, educational, and safe for all. Follow directions from Zoo staff and ensure students stay with their chaperones. Respect Zoo animals and property. Management reserves the right to escort any individuals off Zoo grounds, should their behavior be deemed inappropriate, disruptive, or unsafe.

ONSITE PROGRAMS

Add an education program to your field trip for \$3 per student. Zoo educators guide learning with ambassador animals every hour between 9:30am and 2:30pm. Programs last approximately 30 minutes and have a capacity of 60 students each. For additional information, email education@chattzoo.org or call 423-697-1322.

Title	Elementary Program Description	Grades	Standards Met
Movin' & Groovin'	Zoo Yoga meets story-telling in this interactive session for our tiniest groovers!	Pre-K & K	(TN) K.LS1.1 (GA) SKL2
Super Duper Senses	Students participate in an activity that explores how humans and animals use their senses .	Pre-K & K	(TN) K.LS1.3
Recipe for Habitat	Students participate in an activity that illustrates all the "ingredients" needed to cook up any habitat: air, water, food, and shelter .	1st & 2nd	(TN) 2.LS2.1 (GA) S1L1.C
Everybody Poops	Students learn about different feces and how examining it may illustrate the transfer of energy and seed dispersal .	1st & 2nd	(TN) 1.LS2.3 (GA) S1L1.B (GA)S2L1.C
Zooper Heroes	Students participate in an activity that requires them to match the super powers we love to the animal adaptations that mirror them.	2nd & 3rd	(TN) 2.LS1.1 (TN) 3.LS4.2 (GA) S3L1.B
Expansion Expedition	Students explore the engineering design process and problem-solving that goes into creating new animal habitats within a zoological facility or preserve. *May be adapted to suit older grade PBL units.	3rd - 5th	(TN) 3.ETS1.2 (GA) S3L1.B (GA) S3L1.C (TN) ECO.ETS2.2
Food Web Feast	Students build a food pyramid that explores feeding groups as well as the role of producers, consumers, keystone species, and decomposers to illustrate transfer of energy and trophic levels . *May be adapted to suit 3rd-7th grade PBL units in Fall 2025.	4th & 5th	(TN) 4.LS2.2 (TN) 4.LS2.3 (TN) 4.LS2.4 (GA) S4L1.A,B,C,D

ONSITE PROGRAMS

Title	Middle/High School & Adult Program Description	Suitable Grades	Standards Met
Excellent Ecosystems	Students participate in an activity that connects Zoo exhibits with their corresponding biomes . They will meet animals from different ecosystems and evaluate how they are connected to biotic and abiotic factors in that ecosystem.	6th - 12th	(TN) 6.LS2.2 (TN) 6.LS2.4 (GA) S7L4.A (GA) S7L4.D
A Day in the Life of A Keeper	An educator explores the different aspects of a zookeeper's daily job tasks and the various roles a zoo plays in conservation.	K - 5th	***
A Day in the Life of a Vet Tech	Students explore the different aspects of a vet tech's daily job by rotating through multiple hands-on stations completing various tasks. Each station gives clues that will help students diagnose health issues in animals. *50-60 minute program available for field trips only	6th - 12th	(TN) 1.LS2.3 (GA) S1L1.B (GA)S2L1.C
Conservation Conversation	Meet three animal ambassadors and learn their conservation stories.	All & Adults	***
Career Tours	Students will engage with a variety of departments to gain insight into their experiences and career path. From Animal Care, to Education, Exhibit Design, to Guest Experience	6th - 12th	***



ZOO OUTREACH

Can't come to us? We'll come to you! Outreach programs are a fun interactive way to introduce science in your community! Curriculum-based, special-topic, and conservation presentations last 45-minutes and may include animal ambassadors. To allow for an optimal learning environment, we suggest groups of 45 or less. However, we can do assembly style programs for up to 150 participants per presentation.

➤➤➤ ZOO TO YOU PROGRAMS

All Zoo to You Outreach programs must be booked at least two weeks from the program date. To check availability under the two week cut off, email education@chattzoo.org or call (423) 697-1322 ext. 5790. Programs are available every day from 9 AM-5 PM EST. If you book an outreach program to occur outside of that time frame, an additional \$25 fee will be required.

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS (CLASSROOM SIZE):

- 1 PRESENTATION/DAY - \$80
- 2 PRESENTATIONS/DAY - \$145
- 3 PRESENTATIONS/DAY - \$210

IN-PERSON PROGRAMS (ASSEMBLY SIZE):

- 1 PRESENTATION/DAY - \$200
- ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS - \$200 EACH

➤➤➤ SENIOR SAFARI PROGRAMS

Animal-assisted therapy has been the subject of much research and has been proven to increase serotonin levels, lower blood pressures and reduce depression. In other words, make people happy and less stressed! Information regarding the particular animal and their role both in the world and at Chattanooga Zoo will be given. Suggested for Mondays and Tuesdays. This is a 30-minute presentation with 1 animal ambassador. Price is \$60 per visit and you may request to be placed on our monthly rotation. To book your Senior Safari call 423-697-1322 ext. 5790.

➤➤➤ VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Virtual programming may be available for those with distance barriers. Contact Chattanooga Zoo at education@chattzoo.org for more information.



SCHOOL BREAK CAMPS

Zoo Camps at Chattanooga Zoo are educational in nature and encourage active learning through games, age-appropriate, hands-on-science, animal encounters, and nature play for students. We offer both summer camps and school break camps. These programs are only available at the Zoo, in person, for pre-registered participants. Registration opens approximately 2 months prior to camp session start dates. Our maximum capacity will depend on the particular session being offered. For more information on our camp offerings visit our website at www.chattzoo.org/education/camps.



Limited camp scholarships are available for those who qualify! Email education@chattzoo.org for more information.

»»» BREAK CAMPS

Break camps are scheduled according to the Hamilton County school district's calendar. We offer fall break, winter break, and spring break sessions. Capacity for these camps run from 12 - 16 participants per group. Break Camps typically accommodate K-3rd graders. You may find more information on topics, dates, and pricing on our website.

»»» SUMMER CAMPS

Summer camps typically run 8-9 weeks during the summer school break. This camp offers grade groupings for rising 1st-12th. Camp topics vary from summer to summer. Summer camps take one field trip off grounds per week to various local partner organizations as well as one trip to our Warner Park pool.

»»» CAMP ZOOABILITY

We partner with the City of Chattanooga's Therapeutic Recreation Department to offer added weeks of camp for children and adults with cognitive and/or physical disabilities called Camp Zooability. Campers spend the week participating in traditional camp activities, meeting animal ambassadors, and doing special activities around the Zoo. The counselor to camper ratio is a 1-to-1 or 1-to-2. Registration for this camp is through Chattanooga's Therapeutic Recreation Department.



SCOUT PROGRAMS

Calling all Scouts! Join us for a fun-filled workshop and earn badges while having a great day at the Zoo! Our workshops are great for Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls, Scouting America and other youth-oriented scout groups! Registration is required 1-2 weeks in advance. Register online at chattzoo.org/education/scouts

»»» PRIVATE WORKSHOPS

Private 2-hour workshop slots are available for all groups interested in a unique experience while learning about wildlife and conservation. Tailored by level, scouts to work towards petals, pins, belt loops, and badges. Price is \$20 per scout with a 5 scout minimum. Visit our website at www.chattzoo.org for more information of the workshops we offer.

»»» ZOOKEEPER FOR A DAY PROGRAMS

In addition to our two-hour workshops that focus on badge requirements, we also offer a three-hour workshop that is a great choice for multi-leveled groups. Our "Zookeeper for A Day" workshop gives a behind-the-scenes peek at what zookeepers do on a daily basis. This three-hour workshop is a great choice for scouts of all ages and organizations.

»»» MERIT BADGE WORKSHOPS

These workshops are designed to work towards or complete each of the following merit badges. Scouts may register individually or as troops.

Mammal Study

(9:00am - 2:00pm)

Pricing:

Per Scout: \$60.00

Per Adult: \$20.00

Insect Study

(9:00am - 2:00pm)

Pricing:

Per Scout: \$60.00

Per Adult: \$20.00

Environmental Science

(9:00am - 4:00pm)

Pricing:

Per Scout: \$95.00

Per Adult: \$20.00

Reptile & Amphibian Study

(9:00am - 2:00pm)

Pricing:

Per Scout: \$60.00

Per Adult: \$20.00



HOMESCHOOL SERVICES

Chattanooga Zoo offers classroom-style programs for our homeschool and preschool community. In our homeschool and preschool classes you will meet some of the world's most fascinating wildlife face-to-face while learning from our amazing staff of teachers, keepers and other educators! Each class includes a lesson based on the semester's theme, games, crafts, and other hands-on learning activities designed to reinforce the lesson. Our lessons are not only standards-based, but feature guided tours, habitat chats, biofact shares, animal meet and greets, and occasional behind the scenes experiences. Registration is in mid-April for the following fall semester. For full information, including schedule, class topics, and pricing visit our website under the Education tab.

➤➤➤ ZOONIVERSITY (K-12TH GRADE)

Our Zooniversity Homeschool program is a series of classes that combine hands on learning with classroom instruction. Students explore a variety of topics including Zoology, Earth Science, Physical Science, Life Sciences, and Ecology. Each class is 1.5 hours long. Grade groups are K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th. Classes meet every other week for a total of 8 classes per semester.

➤➤➤ KITS & CUBS (PRESCHOOL TRACK)

Kits and Cubs is an early childhood learning program that is designed specifically for our youngest animal lovers! These programs are loaded with hands-on, interactive learning which will encourage your child to explore the natural world and discover new animal friends. Each class is 1 hour long. Children 2yrs - 5yrs of age may participate. Classes meet every other week for a total of 8 classes per semester. Adults are required to stay with the child.



TEEN PROGRAMS

If you are a teenager looking for opportunities to engage with animals and conservation, then Chattanooga Zoo would love to see you participate in our teen programs! From short-term opportunities to longer programs like Zoo Club and volunteering, we have an opportunity for you.

»»» ZOO CLUB

Zoo Club is a great place to have your teen get involved with conservation while learning about animals! We meet once a month with additional opportunities to get involved. Each semester we focus on a different conservation topic. Members must be in Middle School or High School and be able to work independently. High School meets the 2nd Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted. Middle School meets the 4th Saturday of each month unless otherwise noted. Zoo Club registration is per semester. Spring runs Jan - May and Fall runs Aug - Dec. The member cost is \$120 per student and the non-member cost is \$135 per student. Capacity is 15 students per group.

»»» GIRLS CONSERVATION CLUB

Looking for a way to gain community service and STEM career skills? What about spending time outdoors and following a keeper's lead? Inquire about interest lists or eligibility for this offering by emailing education@chattzoo.org

»»» TESTIMONIAL

"I owe so much of who I am to the Chattanooga Zoo. Since the 4th grade I have had such wonderful people teaching about wildlife conservation and about being a good person. I believe that Zoo Club especially helped me out there. Not only did my connections from it gain me my jobs at the Chattanooga Zoo but also my position that I now hold helping with Zoo Club! The time that I have spent planning, going to meetings, helping out with the kids, and even going paddle boarding with my coworkers has been so refreshing. I feel like a real part of the team!"



ELLINOR CAMPBELL



TWILIGHT PROGRAMS

Get your Zoo fix at night! Included with private after-hours admission, enjoy a 2-hour rotating program on Zoo grounds or partner locale with at least 2 animal highlights and guided inquiry of local wildlife. Depending on the season, some workshops may be perfect for scout troops, others great for family bonding, or date night. Keep your eye out for the variety of workshops! Inquire for your Greek life, troop, homeschool co-op, church group, sports team, family and friends, and more to come together in this experience like no other!

Cost: \$30/person

*For more involved material nights, fees may be higher. Adult supervision required for anyone under the age of 17.



➤➤ CITIZEN SCIENCE SAFARI

Learn to appreciate nature all around, in this special community science event. Included with evening or early morning access to the Zoo or partner locations, become a real-world scientist studying and collecting data that gives back to the conservation of species in our own backyard. Feel the sense of wonder, join with conservation leaders in your community, learn how to stay engaged in projects at home, and serve the natural world beside the experts!

➤➤ KIDS NIGHT OUT

Drop off the kiddos for the evening and leave it all to the Zoo experts! We will guide your youngsters around for a private and one of a kind evening while you enjoy date night or time alone! Kids Night Out will be offered select nights, such as during Asian Lantern Festival, allowing you the privacy you need during the holiday season.

*Advanced registration and payment is required. Open until capacity is filled.



TEACHER WORKSHOPS

WWW.CHATTZOO.ORG | 423-697-1322

>>> POPULATION EDUCATION

Discover hands-on curricula that allows movement in the classroom; engages minds in empathy building, social skills, and decision-making; and enforces interdisciplinary learning around population change, sustainable choices, resources, threats to biodiversity, and competitive pressures. Leave with access to over 60 lessons from Population Education's "Teaching Population" web kit. Special workshops feature **community science and TESOL** resources specifically. Recommended for 2nd-6th grade teachers.



>>> SAVING SPECIES WITH ZOO PBL'S

Come and explore the best activities from the Zoo's interdisciplinary **PBL units** for 3rd-12th grade classrooms. Dive deeper into units that helps students explore threats and solutions to amphibian, turtle, and mammal survival in Tennessee. Gain access to curricula which is only available to workshop attendees, and encourages students to engage with experts, place-based inquiry, experiments, problem-solving, and the outdoors. Students build real-world advocacy and research products to play a role in conservation. Leave with over 30 free lesson plans and accessory materials to lead the units in your classroom right away. For other PBLs or grade-level content, email education@chattzoo.org



>>> EVOLUTION FOR EDUCATORS

Get up close and personal with what once seemed theoretical! Investigate labs, animal artifacts, tactile learning activities, and genomes. Chat with zoo keepers and learn about the law of superposition with fossils and animal footprints. Take home your own animal art, ideas and resources for evolution lessons, and meet animal ambassadors with unique stories to tell about domestication, taxonomy, vestigial structures, and more. Supported by TIES- the Teacher Institute on Evolutionary Sciences- and applicable to middle and high school educators.



You can email education@chattzoo.org to schedule a training seminar hosted at the Zoo, your local institution, or over Zoom! Suitable for pre-service teachers, science education conferences, and district PD days.



EDUCATION EVENTS

WWW.CHATTZOO.ORG | 423-697-1322

➤➤➤ ZOO MEMBERS' BACK TO SCHOOL BASH | FALL

Gather with fellow member families for this fun-packed evening at your Zoo! Members only. Advanced registration may be required.

➤➤➤ HOMESCHOOL APPRECIATION DAYS | FALL

Join us for Zoo wide scavenger hunts, special animal meet and greets, and several activity and craft stations. **All activities are walk-up based, but timed-entry tickets must be purchased in advance online, and adults must accompany children. Pricing available online.

➤➤➤ TEACHER & SCOUT DISCOUNT DAYS | FALL

Enjoy a discounted day at Chattanooga Zoo with special animal encounters and experiences! Teacher giveaways may be available while supplies last. *Scouts or troop leaders must be wearing a piece of their uniform (t-shirt, sash) to receive discounted Zoo admission.

➤➤➤ PARTY FOR THE PLANET | SPRING

Gather with fellow school groups, community members, leaders, and Zoo experts to learn about, advocate for, and commit to protecting our treasured species - at the Zoo, in our backyards, and across the globe. Various activities, animal artifacts, and volunteers around the Zoo will support engaging all ages in a future we all want to see for Chattanooga's wilds and beyond.

➤➤➤ SAVING SPECIES DAYS | SPRING

Working through one of the Zoo's PBL units on amphibians, turtles, or mammals? Come find interactive stations to enhance your learning, or have your students mail activities to the Zoo that can be used to teach others about the animals and the best ways to help protect them! Salamander Saturday, World Turtle Day, & Pied Tamarin Days are perfect for you and your students and take place in March and May!



SEE YOU SOON!

WWW.CHATTZOO.ORG | 423-697-1322

