

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of tropical leaves. There are large, dark teal monstera leaves with characteristic splits, and smaller, light green palm fronds. The leaves are scattered across the white background, creating a lush, jungle-like feel.

Zooniversity

Chattanooga Zoo Homeschool Series

Parent Packet

THANK YOU

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. 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.

education@chattzoo.org
(423)468-1235



WHAT TO EXPECT?

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our Zooniversity Homeschool is a series of classes that combine hands on learning with classroom instruction. Students to explore a variety of topics including Zoology, Earth Science, Physical Science, Life Sciences, and Ecology.

Students are divided by the grade levels as follows: K-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th- 12th

Fall 2026 TOPICS:

The topics for Fall 2026 will be Zoology for kindergarten through 8th grade students and Cell Biology for high schoolers. We are so excited to study these topics through a variety of hands on activities, crafts, and games.

THURSDAY CLASS SCHEDULES

Dates	K-2 nd 10:30am-12:00pm or 1:30pm-3:00pm	3 rd -5 th 10:30am-12:00pm or 1:30pm-3:00pm
Aug 6th	Zoology 101	Zoology 101
Aug 20th	Junior Vet Tech	Zootrition
Sep 3rd	Zootrition	Junior Vet-Tech
Sep 17th	Animal Physiology: Digestive System	Animal Physiology: Muscular
Oct 1st	Animal Physiology: Skeletal System	Animal Physiology: Digestive
	FALL BREAK - NO CLASSES	FALL BREAK - NO CLASSES
Oct 22nd	Animal Physiology: Muscular System	What's in Their Genes?
Nov 5th	What's in Their Genes?	Animal Habitats
Nov 19th	Animal Habitats	CSI: Zoo
Dates	6 th -8 th 10:30am-12:00pm or 1:30pm-3:00pm	9 th -12 th 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm
Aug 13th	Zoology 101	The Cell: Organelles and Membranes
Aug 27th	Zootrition	DNA Structure and Replication
Sep 10th	Veterinary Science	Proteins: Synthesis and Function
Sep 24th	Animal Physiology: Muscular	Photosyntheses and Cellular Respiration
Oct 8th	Animal Physiology: Digestive	The Cell Cycle and Mitosis
	FALL BREAK - NO CLASSES	FALL BREAK - NO CLASSES
Oct 29th	What's in Their Genes?	Meiosis and Asexual vs Sexual Reproduction
Nov 12th	Expansion Expedition	Mendelian Genetics
Dec 3rd	CSI: Zoo	Mutations and Genetic Engineering

TUESDAY CLASS SCHEDULES

Dates	K-2 nd 10:30 am-12:00 pm or 1:30pm-3:00pm	3 rd -5 th 10:30 am-12:00 pm or 1:30pm-3:00pm
Aug 11th	Zoology 101	Zoology 101
Aug 25th	Junior Vet Tech	Zootrition
Sep 8th	Zootrition	Junior Vet-Tech
Sep 22nd	Animal Physiology: Digestive System	Animal Physiology: Muscular
Oct 6th	Animal Physiology: Skeletal System	Animal Physiology: Digestive
	FALL BREAK - NO CLASSES	FALL BREAK - NO CLASSES
Oct 27th	Animal Physiology: Muscular System	What's in Their Genes?
Nov 10th	What's in Their Genes?	Animal Habitats
Nov 24th	Animal Habitats	CSI: Zoo

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

General

Check-in and check-out for Zooniversity is located in the back of the zoo at the old zoo entrance off McCallie Ave. Turn into the Warner Park Fields complex, go past the tennis courts and ball fields, take a right at the stop sign, and continue to the parking lot behind the Education Building. There will be a staff member at the open gate by our education building to welcome you and your student into the zoo.

Morning Class:

- Classes are from 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
- Back gate opens at 10:15 am and closes at 10:35 am
- Gate reopens at 12:00 pm for pick-up and will close after classes have been dismissed

Afternoon Class:

- Classes are from 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
- Back gate opens at 1:15 pm and closes at 1:35 pm
- Gate reopens at 3:00 pm for pick-up and will close after classes have been dismissed

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 welcome you and direct you to your student's classroom.
- When you get to the classroom you will check in with the educator and may add any last minute changes to your student's authorized pick-up list. At this time you will be given a pick-up card to present to your educator to get your child at the end of the class period.
- If you are going to be late checking in, please call ahead or email so that we can be prepared for your arrival.

CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT

CHECK-OUT

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. You will be given a student pick-up card by your educator when you arrive to your classroom. To make the flow of pick-up easier, please present the card to the teacher at the end of class to pick up your student.

- Check-out will occur at the same gate as check-in.
- Please park and wait outside of the gate until the gate opens.
- Once the gate opens a zoo staff member will direct you to which building your student is located in.
- Please wait outside of the classroom and the educator will collect the pick-up card and release your student.
- If someone other than the person with the pick-up card is picking your student up, they must be on the approved list and show their ID.
- Please do not enter the building as to not cause congestion in the hallway. Your student will be sent out to you.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

BEHAVIOR POLICY

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. We are also respectful to our animals that live at the zoo, as well as the nature around us. We will also be respectful to any zoo property and equipment!
- **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 not only lose our group but we can fall and hurt ourselves or others.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

BEHAVIOR ACTION PLAN

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.

CLASS EXPECTATIONS

PLEASE NOTE

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. 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

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.

SERIOUS INJURIES OR ILLNESS

If a serious injury or illness occurs, emergency services will be contacted first. 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.

If you would like to add an additional emergency contact not on the list, please email education@chattzoo.org. You may also add an emergency contact at check-in.

FAQS

Q: *Are classes ever canceled for weather and what would happen if so?*

A: We follow the Hamilton County Department of Education for school closures. If classes are ever canceled, you will be notified via email and the class date will be rescheduled.

Q: *What if Hamilton County schools are delayed.*

A: If Hamilton County schools are delayed due to weather, our classes will continue as scheduled.

Q: *Can I participate with my student?*

A: We ask that parents do not stay with their child during the class period. Parents may stay on grounds and wait at the picnic tables near the education classrooms. We do encourage you to purchase a membership if you plan to bring other family members with you to tour the zoo during your student's class time. Any non-members coming with you will need to purchase tickets to be on grounds during class time as well.

FAQS

Q: *Can we visit the zoo before or 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 before or after class, you may do so through the front gates.

Q: *Do students take home worksheets?*

A: Students will get to take home different types of worksheets and crafts.

Q: *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.

Q: *Does my student need to bring anything with them to class?*

A: No supplies are needed. We will provide everything for each class. Please do not send toys or other items with your child. They may bring a water bottle and if necessary, an umbrella.

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 education@chattzoo.org

