

# DEAR TEACHER,



We are so excited that you and your class are coming out to the zoo!

We get over 130,000 visitors each year... so here is a checklist of tips and information to help you have a successful field trip!

## **Before your trip:**

- Count up the exact number of students, chaperones/parents, bus drivers and teachers your school is paying to enter the zoo. Fill out the bottom portion and cut off to bring when you visit!
  - Our admissions staff needs an accurate account of visitors each day. Admissions fees are due on the day of your visit.
  - Admissions pricing: School rate - \$2.00 for any student or adult admission paid for by the school, includes teachers, bus drivers, chaperones, etc. (this pricing is discounted pricing from a normal zoo visitor)
- The Z&OO Railroad train is outside the zoo in the park and is separate from the zoo. To set up a train ride for your class and current pricing, you can email: [zootrain2001@yahoo.com](mailto:zootrain2001@yahoo.com)
- Plan to bring your lunch! - you can reserve a pavilion by calling the admissions window at (936) 633-0399. If a pavilion is not available, there is plenty of space out in Ellen Trout Park including a playground with picnic tables.

## **Once you are at the zoo:**

- Pick up a zoo map at the admissions window & enjoy your visit!

Know your Zoo Manners...

- Please do not feed our animals - it could harm them. Our animals are on special diets.
- Please walk within the designated areas and do not cross barriers or reach across them.
- No running, bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades or skates.
- Please do not touch, chase or feed the peafowl.
- In case of an emergency, find the closest zoo employee or go to the admissions window.

## **COVID Zoo Manners:**

- Please make sure your class is social distancing from any other group visiting the zoo.
- We prefer classes to walk around the zoo with a 10 student to 1 teacher/chaperone ratio to help avoid crowding at exhibits.

**HOPE YOU HAVE A WILD TIME! - ETZ STAFF!**



Please give to the staff at the admissions window!

DATE OF VISIT: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of students the school is paying for: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$2.00 each)

Total number of adults the school is paying for: \_\_\_\_\_  
(including teachers, bus drivers and chaperones) (\$ each)

**Total number of tickets paid for by school: \_\_\_\_\_**

# SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES

**ACTIVITIES AT THE ZOO:** We have a Self-Guided Open-ended question guide on the back of this form you can use to get your students observing. Check out [www.ellentroutroutzoo.com](http://www.ellentroutroutzoo.com) for more information about educational programs!

**Use this list of animals to find at the zoo and the open ended questions to help your students explore and learn by observing.**

## GRADE K & 1: CLASSIFICATION – WHAT COVERS AN ANIMAL'S BODY.

*Find an animal that has fur or hair. What color is their fur or hair? Are there mammals that don't have thick fur?*

*Find an animal with feathers. What color are their feathers? Do all birds fly? Can you find the bird at the zoo that doesn't fly?*

*Find an animal with scales. What kind of reptile is it? Where can the reptile go to get warm?*

## GRADE 2 & 3: HABITATS AND ADAPTATIONS.

*Find an animal exhibit that looks like a desert. What is special about the plants and animals in a desert?*

*Find an animal exhibit that looks like a grassland. What other animals would share this habitat?*

*Find an animal exhibit that looks like a lake/pond. What other animals would share this habitat?*

*Find an animal exhibit that looks like a forest. What other animals would share this habitat?*

*Find an animal with bright colors and an animal with dull colors. How do their colors help them survive?*

*Find an animal with webbed feet. Where is it? On the ground? In the water? In a tree? Does this animal stay in the water all the time?*

*Find a bird with a large beak. How is the bird using its beak? What other shapes and sizes of beaks are at the zoo?*

## GRADE 4 & 5: FOOD WEB AND ECOSYSTEMS

*Pick one exhibit. What are the living and nonliving parts? How do they affect each other?*

*Find a large carnivore and a small carnivore. How could their size help them catch their prey?*

*Find a small prey animal and large prey animal. How do they escape predators?*

*Find an herbivore. Are they a grazer (eating grass) or a browser (eating shrubs and bushes)?*

*Find an omnivore. How can being an omnivore help this animal survive?*

*Find an exhibit with more than one kind of animal. Why can we let those animals live together?*

*Can you see the food, water, shelter and space in their exhibit?*

*Find an aviary. How do the birds share the space? Are some closer to the ground? Are some in the trees?*