

ELLEN TROUT ZOO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



Ellen Trout Zoo's mission is to connect people to the natural world and our education department does just that! ETZ is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and spreads a message of conservation with our education outreach and events.

K-12 Programs - We have some set TEK aligned lessons that have a content/activity part and an animal encounter. We cannot just bring an animal to your classroom without an outreach/conservation message.

- **Here are our programs you can request by grade level:**

PreK - 1: *Critter Classification* - (30 - 45 min) students touch biofacts to learn about 3 (mammal, bird, & reptile) of the many classes we sort animals into as scientists. Includes one animal ambassador encounter.

2nd: *Feeding Lab* - special program held on grounds only! (1.5 hrs) Learn herbivore, omnivore, carnivore and all about zoo nutrition before feeding 3 sample diets to our animals! Only available in April & October.

3rd: *Texas Animals* - State bird? State reptile? State insect? Covers Texas State animals and other unique local wildlife! Includes one animal ambassador encounter.

4th - 5th: *Adaptations Program* - Powerpoint presentation on adaptations in 4 different habitats. Includes one animal ambassador encounter.

Exhibit Design - 3 part partnership program designing an appropriate animal enclosure for a zoo setting that allows the visitor to see the animal, zookeeper to care for the animal safely, and is enriching for that animal. Involves a visit with your class, a visit to the zoo, & a presentation day! Has math, science, and engineering components.

6th: On-grounds *Science Review for Benchmark* Testing covering levels of organization of an ecosystem, abiotic/biotic, and zoo conservation.

7th: *MacroInvertebrate Water Quality Survey* - find out how we can tell if an ecosystem is healthy by looking at the small organisms in the ecosystem's water source. Includes collecting organisms from Ellen Trout Lake, use of a dichotomous key, learning about pollution tolerance, bar graph of their results, and writing a conclusion!

8th - HS: *Zoonotic Diseases* - overview of disease that can transfer from animals to humans and precautions the zoo takes to prevent diseases from being contracted or transmitted.

Venomous Snakebite - debunking some myths, learning the venomous snakes of Angelina county, and what to do if you are bitten.

Any grade: We can modify these programs to fit your grade level

Modern Zoos - updates and current happenings at Ellen Trout Zoo. Also, explains how the goals of accredited zoos has changed over time and the four goals of Modern Zoos (Recreation, Education, Conservation, & Research). Can include one animal ambassador encounter.

Zoo Transportation - Part of modern zoo is not taking animals from the wild, so how do zoos move animals from one zoo to another to allow for the species to continue for conservation?

SFA Labs - The Captive Animal Management program for SFA Forestry students is part of an entry level class in the forestry department and explains how managing a Species Survival Plans population in human care differs from managing a wild population of animals. Covers age pyramids, breeding coefficients and conservation programs.

Lufkin HS science classes can also participate in this class upon request but it is a higher level program.

Speciality Programs - Librarians, troop leaders, homeschool co-ops, and other adults who work with children can request a program about a certain subject or topic they would like help covering. These are on a case by case basis and still need a conservation message included.

Examples: Library Programs - covering conservation or connecting with a specific book

Texas Forestry Museum Reading Railroad event

Venomous Snake Program at Huntsville Hospital

Teacher Resources and Support - Charlotte & Whitney are both Growing Up & Project WILD curriculum facilitators. Project WILD a national curriculum and in Texas is part of Texas Parks and Wildlife. You can get continuing education credits for attending a training at the zoo!

We also can provide specialized curriculums, lesson ideas, credible animal information resources, background content or examples of application of science and math topics at the zoo or in your classroom! Let us know how we can help!



ELLEN TROUT ZOO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

HOW TO BOOK A PROGRAM:

The director of education schedules and coordinates all program bookings.

To book a program you will need to email the director of education this information:

- School Name & contact information for person booking program
- Grade level/s and number of students that will participate in the program
- Program you are interested in/topics you would like covered
- Dates you are available to host the program on your campus or visit the zoo!

The education director will contact you to confirm dates, content, and make sure the program is a good fit for your needs.

You will receive a confirmation email saying your program is on our calendar when finalized!

Educational programs on and off grounds have no additional charge but if your group is visiting the zoo, you will still need to pay an admission fee for each student and adult entering the zoo.

Please see the "Dear Teacher" page for information on how to be prepared if you are visiting the zoo grounds!

HOW TO CONTACT US:

www.ellentrouzoo.com

Director of Education	Whitney Heckler	wheckler@ellentrouzoo.com	936 630-0574
Zoo Educator	Taylor Burley-Galaviz	tburley@ellentrouzoo.com	936 630 0403

Professional Organizations:

International Zoo Educators (IZE)

Texas Aquarium and Zoo Educators (TAZE)

Accredited by the Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee (TEEAC)

Completion of AZA Conservation Education course - Charlotte & Whitney

NSTA Members



OTHER ZOO EDU INFO:

Zoo Safari: Summer camp program - \$65 per student Monday - Friday 9 am - 12 noon

Registration is in March each year online at www.ellentrouzoo.com

Classes: 1st & 2nd grade	Zoologists - learn about new class of animals each day
3rd & 4th grade	Wild Detectives - explore habitats of N&S America/Africa
5th & 6th grade	Zoo Engineers - exhibit design & big cat enrichment project

Jr Zoo Keeper: Competitive program where students going into 7th, 8th and 9th grade can apply to be paired with keeper staff to see if a zoo career is for them. An application, essay, and teacher recommendations are turned in through March and April then an interview in April with education staff helps determine the 20 students that are selected for the summer.

\$85 per student, Monday- Friday: 8:30 - 9 am Class with Charlotte - Modern Zoos 101
9 - 10:15/10:30 - 11:45 am with Keeper Staff

Session 1 is two weeks of mid June with 10 students.

Session 2 is two weeks of mid July with 10 students.

Special Events:

Attendees must pay for additional ticket events:

- Princess & the Frog (FEB)
- Raiders of the Lost Zoo (MAR)
- Zoo Brew (MAY) - FOETZ

Regular admission to the zoo for the event:

- Earth Day (APR) - focused on local plants & animals, recycling, and getting outdoors!
- Endangered Species Day (SEPT) - partnership with Lufkin High Schools 4 level Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) students to fundraise for 4 endangered SSP animals at ETZ. Students fundraise for their conservation team from the beginning of school until the day of the event.
- Zoo Boo (OCT) - FOETZ

Education Building Use: ETZ Education building is not open to the general public. Anyone using the building must schedule it with the education director. The building is a City of Lufkin facility and City policies apply. We cannot rent out the education building. There is a building policy that is sent or given to anyone using the room.

Education Dept Numbers:

Every Year:

# of Zoo Safari Summer Camp students:	360
# of Jr Zookeepers:	20
# of tickets available for P&F and Raiders:	480