

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:

- Know 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.

Here are our current school rate admissions pricing: (this pricing is discounted pricing from a normal visitor)

School rate (any student or adult admission paid for by the school) - \$2.00

includes teachers, bus drivers, chaperones, etc.

- Parents attending with students but purchasing their own ticket get 50% off - \$3.50

- Siblings attending with discounted parents also get 50% off (ages 4 and up) - \$1.75

- Children 3 and under are free

- Remember to tell parents/chaperones (the school is not paying for) to let the admissions clerk know that they are attending with your "(name of school)'s field trip", and they will receive 50 % off their admission fee for accompanying the trip!

- 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.

- You are welcome to bring your lunch! We have pavilions you can reserve 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!

KNOW YOUR ZOO MANNERS... Here are some of our rules your students and chaperones will need to know:

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.

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 or contact the zoo education department at wheckler@ellentrouzoo.com to schedule an educational program that is aligned with TEKS to help facilitate the education goals of your trip.

HOPE YOU HAVE A WILD TIME! - ETZ STAFF!

PLEASE GIVE TO STAFF AT 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) (\$2.00 each)

***Please make sure all other adults who the school is not paying for know that they can let the admissions clerk know they are with the "(school name)'s group" and they can get the 50% off their ticket!

Total number of tickets paid for by school: _____

SELF-GUIDED ACTIVITIES

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 a 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?