

TAMPA'S LOWRY PARK ZOO



edZOOcator

AN EDUCATOR'S HANDBOOK
FOR PROGRAMS AND FIELD TRIPS

2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR

Engaging Education

At Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo, we are dedicated to serving as an educational resource for the community. The Florida Environmental Education Center, or "Zoo School," is where we develop many of the exciting educational experiences that you can find year round.

Located next to what you traditionally think of as "the Zoo," the Zoo School's campus is a 17,400 square foot hands-on learning facility. It's here that the Education Department of the Zoo works hard to exceed the expectations of individuals, families, schools and educators like you.

Studies have shown that AZA-accredited zoos like ours enhance students' understanding of wildlife and the need to conserve the places animals live. Having an immersive experience, like visiting the Zoo, can prompt them to reconsider their role in environmental problems and conservation action, and then see themselves as part of the solution. Connecting children to nature is a positive and effective way to provide educational messages that can result in learning, retention and action.

In this edition of the EdZoocator you will find several offerings designed to be of good value, fun, innovative and engaging for children and adults alike. We hope that this school year you will consider bringing your school, class, and groups to experience first-hand all that has allowed us to be named "#1 Zoo in the USA," by both *Parents* and *Child* magazines.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Bacon-McLachlan".

Jennifer Bacon-McLachlan
Director of Education



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CLASS SLEEPOVERS AT THE ZOO

Sleepovers at Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo are so much fun your students won't notice that they are educational too! With many themes to choose from, you can even have more than one! Special discounts are available for a limited time.

See page 9 for details.

Planning Your Field Trip

Field Trip Group Rate Zoo Admission

Minimum number to be considered a group rate is 15 paying students.

Pre-K to 12th Grade

- \$7 per student
- One free chaperone per 10 paid students, except Pre-K and K which is 1:5
- Additional chaperones/ educators \$11

College Students

- \$13 per college student (must have valid student ID)
- One free educator per 10 paid students
- Additional chaperones/ educators \$18.50

Tips for an Enjoyable Visit

- After scheduling your class field trip, call or email for your FREE Teacher Pass (free admission) to visit and plan for what you'd like to see with your group.
- Take advantage of the FREE self-guided curriculum provided online. Use the material as Pre/Post Activities to enhance your Zoo experience.
- Make sure you have plans for lunch in place. There is no outside food or drink allowed inside the Zoo, however, we are surrounded by Lowry Park where you are welcome to eat your packed lunches. Or you can pre-order group lunches from the Zoo. Please order at least one week in advance.
- On the day of your visit, you will need to bring your payment and completed paperwork with the final headcount of students and adults to the front gate. One person will need to pay for the whole group.
- Download podcasts available online.
- Go over Zoo rules and regulations with chaperones on the bus prior to arrival. This information will be emailed to you once you book your group online.
- Remember, if your group schedules a special program, a confirmation letter will be sent to you explaining where your group is to meet the Zoo instructor.
- Encourage your entire group to wear school badges/tags or school shirts. This is a great way to keep track of your group and of the headcount. We strongly suggest that you do not write the students names on badges/tags for security reasons.
- "Adopt An Animal" with your class and visit it during your trip! This program's details are online.



SAVE TIME AND MONEY BY ORDERING LUNCH AND GIFT BAGS IN ADVANCE!

PRE-ORDER LUNCH OPTIONS

Box Lunches (cold)

\$4.50 per child/\$6 per adult (prices subject to tax)
Your choice of Tuna Fish, Ham and Cheese, or Turkey and Cheese. All cold lunches come with juice, potato chips, and animal crackers.

Box Lunches (hot)

\$5.95 per child/\$6.95 per adult (prices subject to tax)
Your choice of hot dog, cheeseburger, or chicken nuggets with juice box, potato chips and animal crackers.

Buffet Style Lunches (hot)

For groups of 75 people or more
\$6.95 per child/\$8.95 per adult (prices subject to tax)
Buffet may consist of Hamburgers, Hot Dog, Mac and Cheese, Fruit Cocktails, Chips, Animal Crackers, Fruit Punch, and Lemonade.

PRE-ORDER GIFT BAGS

The Zoo offers this successful program that allows students to get a souvenir without shopping in the gift shops.
\$3 Gift Bag includes:

- Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo pencil
- Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo postcard
- Surprise item! (keychain, small toy, stickers, etc.).

For an additional fee, gift bags can feature specific animals and/or include a plush. Bags will be available for pick-up at the Main Gate Gift Shop the day of your field trip. Must be ordered in advance.

All prices are subject to change.

To schedule or "add on" to your field trip, see contact information on back cover.



In-Zoo Programs

When you bring your class to the Zoo, you can tour on your own or choose from a variety of optional “Add-on” In-Zoo programs to enhance your field trip. To arrange these programs, please contact the Zoo (see back cover.)

GUIDED TOURS

Your guided tour will consist of an exciting VIP adventure and behind-the-scenes insights about the Zoo.

Themes include:

Florida Boardwalk

Meet the original Florida natives—past, present and...future unknown.

Primate World

Bring your group of primates to meet ours! Learn about our closest cousins in the animal kingdom.

Asian Gardens

Explore the Asian habitats and learn about the unique animals like Malaysian tapirs, rare white Bengal tigers and massive Indian rhinos.

Safari Africa

The African savannah is home to some of the world’s largest land mammals, but when you head out on this African safari you’ll also discover some of the most elusive and diverse wildlife on the planet.

Program Information:

- Ages 5 to adult
- 45-60 minutes
- Minimum total of 15 people, including chaperones
- Maximum total of 60 people, including chaperones
- \$4 per student with Zoo admission
- \$7 per student without Zoo admission
- One free chaperone per 10 students
- Extra chaperones/teachers \$4 with Zoo admission
- Extra chaperones/teachers \$7 without Zoo admission
- For Saturday and Sunday tours, please book early. Availability is limited.

Scavenger Hunt/Team Building

Heading to the Zoo soon and want to add some educational fun? Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo offers scavenger hunts for your class or entire school. At the end we will supply the winning group a prize.

Program Information:

- Ages 5 to adult
- 60 minutes
- Minimum total of 15 people, including chaperones/teachers
 - 15-30 participants \$75
 - 31-60 participants \$90
 - 61-90 participants \$110
 - 91-120 participants \$130
 - 121-150 participants \$165
 - 151-200 participants \$200
- Scavenger Hunts/Team Building Activity must be scheduled in advance.
- Zoo admission is additional. See Field Trip group rates on page 3.



Animal Encounters

Come face to face with the animal ambassadors of Tampa’s Lowry Park Zoo.



Program Information:

- Ages 5 to adult
- 30 minutes
- \$2 per student with field trip Zoo admission
- \$7 per student without field trip Zoo admission
- One free chaperone/teacher per 10 students
- Extra chaperones/teachers \$2 with field trip group admission
- Extra chaperones/teachers \$7 without field trip group admission
- Minimum of 25 participants. Maximum of 200 participants (including chaperones/teachers)

Wetlands Connections

Come explore Florida’s wonderful wetlands. In this program, students will participate in an experiment, have an encounter with an animal ambassador, go on a scavenger hunt, and enjoy other activities as they learn about wetlands and the vital role they play in Florida’s ecology.



Program Information:

- Grades 4 – 8
- 3 hours with 30 minutes included for lunch
- Minimum total of 15 people, including chaperones/teachers
- Maximum total of 60 people, including chaperones/teachers
- One free chaperone/teacher per 10 students
- \$12 per person
- Payment is due two weeks in advance
- Please see Field Trip Group Rates for admission pricing which is not included.

Early Childhood Playgroups

The Zoo can modify programs to accommodate your Pre-K group. Various themes are available and so are customized options.

Program Information:

- Ages 2-5
- 30 minutes
- One free chaperone per 5 students
- \$3 per student with Zoo admission (ages 2 and under free)
- \$7 per student without Zoo admission
- Extra chaperones/teachers \$3 with Zoo admission
- Extra chaperones/teachers \$7 without Zoo admission

Program Information:

- Minimum total of 15 people, including chaperones/teachers
- Maximum of 100 people including chaperones/teachers

Community Service Learning

Inspire environmental stewardship by having your group meet an animal ambassador, learn about the importance of protecting waterways, and then work together to collect recyclables and trash littering the Lowry Park creek of the Hillsborough River.

Program Information:

- Grades 4 – 12
- 2.5 hour program with 30 minutes included for lunch
- Minimum total 15 people, including chaperones
- Maximum total 40 people, including chaperones
- One free chaperone/teacher per 10 students
- \$17 per person
- Zoo access included
- Pizza lunch included
- Drinks are not included
- Payment is due two weeks in advance



Teacher Resources

Online Educator Resource Center

Visit LowryParkZoo.com for field trip guides, animal fact sheets and free K-12th grade pre/post visit materials, curriculum, and activities designed to prepare and enhance your students' learning at the Zoo. To download, click on the Education and Camps tab and scroll down to Educators and Field Trips.

Team Leader Meetings at the Zoo

We offer classroom space for teacher meetings. Space is limited and reservations must be made in advance. Email Jennifer.Bacon@LowryParkZoo.com

Free Animal Encounter for Teachers

Get reacquainted with all that Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo has to offer! We will come to you and provide a free up-close encounter with an animal ambassador, detailed information about the Zoo's investigational and inquiry based science programs and outlines of field trips and workshop options that are relevant to both traditional and non-traditional classrooms. Don't wait! Discover all the ways the Zoo can connect your students to the living world.

Adult Education Classes

Zoo classes aren't just for kids! From September to February the Zoo offers monthly continuing education classes for adults. This schedule can be found online at LowryParkZoo.com. Click on the Education and Camps tab and scroll down to Programs for Adults.

Student Resource Guide

The Zoo receives many requests from students of all ages who are seeking to pursue projects or homework assignments. There are many ways to learn more about the Zoo's commitment to conservation, education and research. Tell your students about the Student Resource Guide and Animal Facts posted online.

Request a FREE Teacher Pass

Book a field trip; be our guest! Visit the Zoo and see why it's been named #1 Zoo in the USA. Email: Jamie.Elkington@lowryparkzoo.com or call (813) 935-8552 ext. 268, to arrange for your complimentary ticket to help plan your field trip.



Calendar of Events

Know what's happening all the time! Visit LowryParkZoo.com. Sign up for “@ the Zoo” newsletter or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Whether planning a class field trip or are visiting the Zoo yourself, there are many fun events throughout the year. Here are a few that take place annually in the fall and winter. Visit LowryParkZoo.com for this year's event dates and times.

ZooBoo

Select Nights in September & October

Come see what lurks after dark at ZooBoo! It's a ghoulish good time for all. Beware of things that go bump in the night as you meander through the shadowy darkness of haunted houses and spooky trails.

A haunting good time for little ones and adults alike, with free unlimited Zoo rides.

Zoofari

November 5

Known as one of the largest and “wildest” all-inclusive food festivals in the Tampa Bay Area, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo invites food lovers to its 25th annual Zoofari feeding frenzy. The event features food sampling from many restaurants, open bars, live music and the “Art Safari” wildlife art auction. Advance ticket sales will start in September.

Wild Wonderland

Select Nights in December

Join the holiday fun at the Zoo after dark! See more than a million twinkling lights, live reindeer, holiday displays, visit Santa and much more.

Drop and Shop this Holiday Season

December 10, 11, 17, 19, 2011

A great idea for parents, drop off your kids for a wild time at the Zoo while you put the finishing touches on your holiday shopping. Your child's day will include Zoo hikes, an animal encounter and enrichment, a visit to see the Wild Wonderland reindeer, a recycled material holiday craft, hot cocoa and cookies. Please provide your child with morning and afternoon snacks, lunch, and a refillable bottle of water.

Drop-off time: 9:30 a.m./Pick-up time: 3:00 p.m.

Costs: \$30 for one child, \$10 each for two or more children.

Ages: 3-12. Younger students must be potty trained.

Noon Year's Eve

December 31

Countdown to noon and ring in the New Year with Radio Disney AM 1380 from 9:30-12:00 p.m.



ANNUAL ZOO PASS HOLDERS SAVE YEAR ROUND!

Whether you've had one in the past or are thinking about getting a Zoo Pass this year now is the time to get one. In addition to supporting a good cause—Annual Zoo Passes help support the Zoo's environmental education, conservation, and recreation efforts—you will receive special offers and discounts offered year round.

- Discounts on programs, birthday parties and camps.
- Discounted admission to special events, such as ZooBoo and Wild Wonderland.
- Free or discounted admission into more than 150 zoos and aquariums throughout North America.
- Free admission to MOSI and the Florida Aquarium through our “Swaptember” program (during month of September).
- Subscription to Zoo Chatter, our award winning quarterly publication and events guide.
- Gift shop discounts.

Sign-up or learn more at LowryParkZoo.com today.

Sleepovers at the Zoo

Your exciting overnight experience will include:

- Up-close encounters with animals
- A Behind-the-scenes tour
- Theme specific crafts or activities
- Pizza snack
- Light morning breakfast

Program Information:

- Ages 6 through adult
- 15 participant minimum
- \$35 per participant
- One free chaperone for every 10 participants
- \$525 flat fee for groups under 15 participants
- Schedule one month in advance



SPECIAL
Have a sleepover
between August 2011-
February 2012, Monday-
Thursday night, and
SAVE \$7 per person
(only \$28 per person).

Exclusively offer for
Public and Private
School groups!

Themes:

African Safari

Go on a Night Safari through forests and wide-open savannas, to discover some of the animals of this mysterious continent.

Awesome Australia

Head to the land down under for an awesome Aussie adventure where you will take a dip in the Billabong water-splash zone and encounter some of the unique animals from the land of "Oz."

Manatee Rescue

Learn about what Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo does to save Florida's gentle giants. Tour our Manatee Hospital and sleep near the manatees in our air-conditioned Aquatics Center.

Nocturnal Adventures

Find out who comes out when the sun goes down and experience life as a nocturnal animal. Stalk and slither your way through the Zoo to see the nocturnal animals in action.

Rainforest Adventures

Did you know rainforests are home to over half the species of plants and animals in the world? Trek through the Zoo to meet some of the inhabitants of this diverse and delicate ecosystem and join the quest to save this important resource.



"Zoo-To-You" Animals Come to Your Classroom



The Zoo-to-You "ZooVentures" program brings interesting animals to your school. With ZooVentures, the excitement of live animals, incredible animal bio-facts and entertaining Zoo Keepers arrive ready to deliver a fun educational program.

ZooVenture Programs:

Rainforest

Venture deep into the rainforest and meet the amazing animals that make this habitat their home.

Nocturnal Adventure

What's lurking in the dark? Encounter animals that go bump in the night. From owls to tarantulas, you'll never look into the night the same way.

Native Florida

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo specializes in native Florida wildlife. During this program you'll meet animals that you might encounter near your own home.

Scales, Feathers and Fur

How do animals survive in different habitats? What traits do they have that keep them thriving? Get up close and see for yourself.

Be a Zoo Keeper

What does it take to be a Zoo Keeper? What does this career entail? Meet a Zoo Keeper and some animal ambassadors during this enlightening program.

African Safari

The African continent ranges from grassy savannas to dense forests and everything in between. Explore the diversity of natural Africa and the animals that call it home.

Amazing Australia

Journey the land "Down Under" and discover the people, places, environments and wildlife of Australia.

Bald Eagle (add on)

The Bald Eagle became the national emblem in 1782 when the Great Seal of the United States was adopted. You can add a visit from the Bald eagle to any of the above themes.

Custom themed programs can be requested.

Program Information:

- 45-60 minutes with no minimum or maximum number of participants
- Schools and Non-Profit organizations: \$355, plus mileage fee.
- For-Profit organizations: \$450, plus mileage fee.
- Adding the Bald Eagle to another theme program is an additional \$200.
- Programs for Pre-School/Childcare Centers are 30 minutes long for up to 50 participants: \$255, plus mileage fee.
- Gas and mileage fee: \$40 for 21-30 miles, or \$50 for 31-40 miles of travel to/from the Zoo

"Zoo-To-You"
GREAT VALUE IF YOUR
SCHOOL HAS LIMITED FUNDS

Example:
total cost of program
\$395 / 150 students
= **\$2.63** per student

ZooVentures supported by:



Teachers – Get group savings if you book a ZooVentures program on the same day in the same school.

Register Today!

Book and plan field trips online at
Lowryparkzoo.com/register

Want to add an In-Zoo Program or other activity like "Zoo-to-You"? Please call or email:

(813) 935-8552 ext. 268
Jamie.Elkington@LowryParkZoo.com

Pre-Order Lunch:

Contact Food Service Manger at
(813) 935-8552 ext. 254

Pre-Order Gift Bags:

Contact Gift Shop Manager at
(813) 935-8552 ext. 215

All prices listed in handbook are subject to change without notice.



1101 W. Sligh Ave.
Tampa, FL 33604-4756

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Artwork and Essay Contests

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo supports conservation efforts for animals located around the globe, as well as the many rare, threatened and endangered species in the state of Florida. Our mission is "To Connect People with the Living Earth." Share this contest with your students and see what they can do with the Zoo!

K-3RD GRADE ARTWORK CONTEST

Pick one or more of the endangered animals you can visit at the Zoo and artistically depict them as they may be found in their natural habitats.

Artwork guidelines:

- Artwork must be 12x12 inches or smaller.
- Should depict animals in a positive way.
- Entries should include the following on the back of the artwork: Artist's Name, Age, Mailing Address and Phone Number, School's name and Teacher who brought idea to student.

4TH-5TH GRADE ESSAY CONTEST

As young adults, your generation will play a critical role in the survival of many of the world's endangered species. Our actions directly affect the environment and the animals that share it with us and small positive changes in our daily routines can often have a huge impact on the environment.

The Zoo is actively involved in helping to protect various species of frogs. With one third to one half of all amphibian species threatened with extinction, it is a very urgent cause. In an essay, discuss why frogs are important and two ways that you can help the frog population today by taking action.

Essay guidelines:

- 300 Word Minimum – 600 Word Maximum
- Submissions should include the following: Author's Name, Age, Mailing Address and Phone Number, School's name and Teacher who brought idea to student.

Submissions should be mailed to:

Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo
Attn: Education Department
Art or Essay Contest
1101 West Sligh Ave.
Tampa, FL 33604

or

Dropped off at the Zoo's front gate in an envelope marked: "Education Department Art or Essay Contest"

Contest Review Process

- Artwork and Essay Contest Deadline: Friday, October 28, 2011.
- Entries will be reviewed the week of October 31, 2011.
- A Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo representative will contact the winning participant on Monday, November 7, 2011.

Prizes

The winner of each contest will receive:

- Four (4) Zoo tickets for the winner and three guests to visit the Zoo (one person in group must be 18 years of age or older).
- A VIP up-close animal encounter with some of the Zoo's animal ambassadors on the day of their pre-scheduled visit to the Zoo.
- Prize valid through and must be redeemed by February 29, 2012.



Connect with the Zoo!



Find us on
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