

CENTRAL FLORIDA ZOO & BOTANICAL GARDENS

WHERE THE CLASSROOM
COMES TO LIFE!

EDUCATION RESOURCE GUIDE 2025-26



CENTRAL FLORIDA
ZOO
& BOTANICAL GARDENS

PLANNING YOUR ZOO VISIT

Chaperones

Chaperones must accompany children at all times. We require a minimum of one adult for every 10 children.

Name Tags/Clothing

We recommend name tags be worn by each person but not attached with straight pins, which could cause harm to the animals. The Zoo is an outdoor facility; children should dress appropriately for current weather conditions. Closed-toe shoes, socks, sunglasses, insect repellent, hats, and sunscreen are recommended. Umbrellas and rain ponchos may also be appropriate.

Gift Shop

Zoo souvenirs can be purchased at the ZOOfare Outpost, located in our Barnyard Buddies Children's Zoo.

Train

Daily 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., weather permitting. Departs approximately every 30 minutes. The train will not operate when it is raining. Group rates are available.

Parking

If you are arriving by bus, follow the signs to the designated bus parking area on the far side of the parking lot. We encourage schools to consider using private bus carriers in order to spend more time at the Zoo.

Late Arrivals

If you have scheduled an education program and are running late, please call 407-323-4450, x 121, 123, 125, or 0 for assistance. We will gladly make allowances for your group if you notify us prior to your arrival. If after 30 minutes your group has not yet arrived, and we have not heard from you, your program will be cancelled. We reserve the right to adjust program length depending on staff availability.

Graze and Swirl

The snack bars offers a variety of lunch items, snacks, and beverages.

PLEASE NOTE OUTSIDE FOOD IS NOT PERMITTED INSIDE THE ZOO. PLEASE LEAVE LUNCHES ON THE BUS, IN YOUR VEHICLE, OR IN A HARD-SIDED NON-FABRIC CONTAINER WITH A LID.

Restrooms/Water Fountains

Restrooms are located in the Discovery Center and at both snack bars. Water bottle refill stations are located in front of the Discovery Center and at Swirl concessions next to the playground.

Animal Food

Please do not feed the animals. They are provided specific diets that meet their daily nutritional requirements. Food to feed the animals in Barnyard Buddies Children's Zoo can be purchased in the gift shop for \$5.00 non-pass holders, \$4.00 for annual pass holders. Times can vary and are available while supplies last.

Giraffe Feeding

The cost is \$6.00 per person for non-pass holders and \$5.00 for annual pass holders. Check for the available times at Zoo arrival.

Zoo Information

3755 W Seminole Blvd.
Sanford, FL 32771
I-4 Exit #104
PO Box 470309
Lake Monroe, FL 32747
407-323-4450
Open: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Website: centralfloridazoo.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens is a place where learning and adventure come together. Guided by our mission to create connections that inspire people to take action for wildlife, we offer a wide range of educational experiences that spark curiosity and foster a love for nature. From STEM programs to unforgettable Ambassador Animal Encounters, our education team is dedicated to making learning fun, meaningful, and accessible for all.

Reservations: Required two weeks in advance; book online at centralfloridazoo.org,

Cancellations: We require a minimum of 24 hours notice to cancel a program. Groups that cancel within 24 hours will be charged a \$75 cancellation fee.

GROUP RATES FOR FIELD TRIPS

Tour the Zoo at your own pace and save with discounted admission for groups of 15 or more. The Zoo is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily. It takes approximately three hours to visit the Zoo.

Children (age 3 to 12) \$14.00
One Adult (per 10 kids) Free

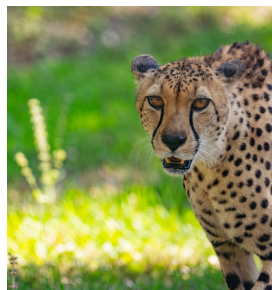
Adult \$20.00
Bus Drivers Free

Child (2 and under) Free

Group Leaders - Annual Pass holders of the Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens are entitled to Free Zoo Admission. Please place the number of Annual Pass holders to receive free admission on your Group Reservation Form and attach photocopies of the annual pass holder's card.

ZOO ANNUAL PASS HOLDERS **DO PAY** FOR SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

Enhance your Zoo Adventure by adding an Education Program to your visit. Information about our group programs begins below. For a complete list of Florida Curriculum Standards included in our Education Programs please visit centralfloridazoo.org.



K-3RD GRADE STEM PROGRAMS

Choose from the following in-person kindergarten through third-grade programs.

Programs Information*

Cost: \$18.00 per student. **Seminole County Public School Discount:** \$13.50 per student.

One adult per 10 children – Free; Additional adults \$22.00 (6 adults per 20 students max);

*Prices include Zoo Admission. Classroom size is limited.

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Group Size Per Day K-1st grade – Min. 15 students, 2 Adults / Max. 75 students

Groups Size Per Day 2-3 grade– Min. 15 students, 1 Adult / Max. 100 students

6 adults per 20 students max. Please plan to schedule more than one date if you have more than the maximum number of students.

KinderZOO! - Kindergarten

- Meet real ambassador animals and explore how books and media often portray animals with exaggerated or imaginary traits.
- Observe and compare unique animal adaptations up close to understand how different species survive.
- Use your five senses on a guided walk through the Zoo to discover similarities and differences of plants and animals.

First Class...Zoo! - 1st Grade

- Meet live animals and observe animal parents and their babies.
- Discover how animals use their senses to survive—and how our own five senses help us explore the world.
- Explore zoo habitats to see how animals and plants use incredible adaptations to live and thrive.

Zoo Keeper 101 - 2nd Grade

- Step into the shoes of a zookeeper through interactive learning and meeting live animals up close.
- Compare the basic needs of animals and discover how zoo staff design habitats to keep animals healthy and safe.
- Take a tour to explore native habitats and learn how zookeepers care for Florida's creatures great and small.

Zoo Explorers - 3rd Grade

- Meet live animals and explore the similarities and differences among the vertebrate classes.
- Travel the globe to journey around the Zoo to identify continents and animals that live there and learn about their statuses in the wild.
- Visit discovery stations to see how math, science, and problem-solving help zookeepers care for animals.

Create Your Own Zooventure

Creating your very own Zooventure lets you create an educational program that's designed specifically for your students, just let us know which subjects you'd like to cover and we'll do the rest. Topics might include florida native species, animal adaptations, or the role of conservation in protecting local ecosystems.

Programs Information*

Cost: \$24.00 per person. One adult per 10 children - Free

Additional adults \$24.00 *Prices include Zoo Admission.

Nonrefundable Deposit Required \$100

Group Size Min/20 participants Max/100 participants Classroom size is limited.

EDUCATIONAL TOURS

Time: 1 1/2 Hours **Group Size:** Max. 100

Cost: \$17.00 per child; One adult per 10 children - Free; Additional adults \$22.00; Prices include Zoo Admission.

Seminole County Public School Discount

Rate: \$12.75 per child; One adult per 10 children free; Additional adults \$22.00; Prices include Zoo Admission.



Planet Safari Tour

Ages: 2nd Grade and Up

Travel the Zoo with a Zoo Guide and learn fascinating facts about the animals. Your Zoo Guide can answer your questions while challenging the audience with questions such as, "What can we do to help preserve wildlife and wild places?"

Endangered Species Tour

Ages: 3rd Grade and Up

Meet threatened and endangered animals at the Zoo and discover what efforts are being taken to save their ecosystems. Students will learn about the different designations of threatened, endangered, and Species of Special Concern.

AMBASSADOR ANIMAL EXPERIENCE

Our Education Ambassador Animals are ready to meet your group. Choose from the following variety of exciting up-close animal encounter presentations.

Time: 30 Minutes

Dates: Monday – Friday

Ages: Pre-K and Up

Group Size: Max. 200 per day, limited to 75 people per program. Can schedule up to three of the same programs per day.

Cost: \$17.00 per child; One adult per 10 children – Free; Additional adults \$22.00; Prices include Zoo Admission.

Seminole County Public School Discount Rate: \$12.75 per child; One adult per 10 children free; Additional adults \$22.00; Prices include Zoo Admission.

ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

They're weird, wacky, and wonderful! Meet some creatures with strange features in this up-close look at some unusual animal adaptations.

ANIMALS IN ACTION

Animals move in many ways. How many can you think of? How many can you imitate? Discover all the right moves and get moving during this lively presentation!

FUN ZOO ANIMALS

Start your group's fun at the Zoo with a special animal encounter and enjoy meeting a variety of amazing animals. This exciting program is designed for groups of all ages to experience the thrill of meeting live animals up close.

HAPPY HABITATS

What do all living things need to survive? From desert to rainforest, animals are found in a variety of habitats throughout the world. Discover how they have adapted to their habitats while meeting animals from different biomes around the Globe.

RAINFOREST ADVENTURES

Students will learn about the rainforests of the world as they meet real rainforest animals. They'll get to know more about this important ecosystem and how it is threatened, as well as ways we can help save it.

ZOOM AROUND THE WORLD

Travel around the world learning fascinating facts and meeting amazing animals in this exciting exploration of continents!

ZOO TO YOU PROGRAMS

Come face-to-face with our amazing ambassador animals and connect with our friendly Education team for a wild learning adventure!

Preschool and VPK

Time: 30 Minutes

Group Size: 25 children max per program

Cost: \$225 for one program / \$275 for two programs / \$325 for three programs

K-Adult Zoo to You Programs

Time: One Hour **Group Size:** Up to 50 students per program

Cost: \$360 one program / \$460 two programs

Seminole County Public Schools Discount Rate: \$270 one program / \$345 two programs

Preschool and VPK

ANIMALS IN ACTION PK & VPK

Animals move in many ways. How many can you think of? How many can you imitate? Discover all the right moves and get moving during this lively presentation!

DIGGIN' DEEP BENEATH OUR FEET PK & VPK

We're diggin' deep beneath our feet as we go exploring for animals that live underground! Discover the adaptations that allow these creatures to make their homes under logs, leaves, and trees.

FUR, FEATHERS, SCALES & TAILS PK & VPK

Learn about the incredible variety of animals found around the world by exploring amazing adaptations and discovering how they are grouped by their unique features.

Kindergarten-Adult

ANIMALS IN ACTION K-ADULT

Animals move in all sorts of amazing ways—slithering, hopping, flying, and more! In this high-energy program, learners will discover how different animals move and why.

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT K-ADULT

Fascinating nightlife comes to light during this nocturnal adventure with some incredible creatures of the night. Discover amazing characteristics and adaptations that have allowed these animals to be successful in the dark.

K-ADULT ZOO TO YOU PROGRAMS

DR. ZOO LITTLE K-5TH GRADE

This behind-the-scenes look at animal care introduces future vets, curious minds, and animal lovers to the basics of wildlife care in a fun, hands-on way. Come face-to-face with our amazing ambassador animals and learn about how our animal residents live their best lives.

FLORIDA NATIVES K-ADULT

Meet some of the wonderful animals that share our state, including some you might see in your own backyard. This program features Florida's diverse wildlife, learn why its imperative that we become stewards of our state in order to save habitat for native species.

WONDERS OF THE RAINFOREST K-ADULT

What makes the rainforests so special? Through interactive activities, amazing biofacts, and real rainforest animals, students will be transported to the rainforests of the world. Students will learn the reasons this important ecosystem is threatened and ways each of us can help save it.

ZOOM AROUND THE WORLD K-ADULT

Travel the world exploring continents and meeting animals native to the far corners of our planet. Discover a diversity of species and learn where they come from.

TRAVELING ZOO TALES

These 30 minute book talks focus on specially chosen books from the Sunshine Young Reader's Award Program. Traveling Zoo Tales will inspire your students to read, to explore, to dream of extraordinary things, and to connect to your already established reading program! We will bring ambassador animals to visit your students and share a fun and interactive discussion about the book.

Time: 30 minutes per program / Maximum of three back-to-back programs per day.

Group Size: Up to approximately 60 students per program.

Cost: \$215 for the first program and \$50 for each consecutive program on the same day.

Grades: PreK - 2nd grade / 3rd - 5th grade / 6th - 8th grade

Reservations: Required at least two weeks in advance.

CUB CLUB

Ages 2-5

Designed for our youngest animal lovers, Cub Club is a playful and educational program where children explore the wonders of wildlife through age-appropriate crafts, games, stories, and up-close animal encounters. Each session features a fun new theme—like barnyard animals, rainforest adventures, or silly storybook creatures—to spark curiosity and encourage hands-on learning. Come make memories and discover the zoo through the eyes of a child!

Visit online at Centralfloridazoo.org for details and registration

NIGHT ADVENTURES

Nighttime Adventures at the Zoo

When the sun goes down, the adventure begins! The Central Florida Zoo offers exciting evening experiences for kids, families and friends:

Kids Night Out – Drop the kids off for a wild night of animal fun, games, crafts, and activities while you enjoy a kid-free evening. It's the perfect blend of fun and learning in a safe, supervised setting.

Night Hike at the Zoo – Discover the sights and sounds of the zoo after dark! Enjoy up-close animal encounters and then grab your flashlight for a guided walk through the zoo to see who's awake at night.

Snooze at the Zoo – Spend the night at the Zoo for an unforgettable after-hours adventure! You'll start with up-close animal encounters and a guided flashlight tour before settling in for snacks, a family-friendly movie. In the morning, wake to the sounds of the zoo and enjoy a light breakfast before heading out to be among the first guests to greet the animals.

Visit online at Centralfloridazoo.org for details and registration

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join our team of dedicated volunteers and make a wild difference! Whether you're helping guests, supporting education programs, or assisting behind the scenes, volunteering at the Central Florida Zoo is a rewarding way to connect with wildlife, meet new people, and give back to your community.

Youth Ambassadors - Grades 9th through 12th

Teen Team - Ages 13 through 17

Zoo Interpreter - Adult 18+

Docent - Adult 18+

Botanical Gardener - Adult 18+

Interns - College Students Ages 18+

Volunteer Service Groups - Organizations looking to volunteer together at the Zoo

Zoo Crew - Volunteer at our events like Zoo Boo Bash or Asian Lantern Festival

For more information, email volunteers@centralfloridazoo.org

SUPPORT THE ANIMALS

Adopt an Animal

Support the animals you love by symbolically adopting one of our amazing residents—from towering giraffes to playful otters. Your contribution directly supports animal care, enrichment, and education programs that inspire our community. Adoption packages make meaningful gifts for birthdays, holidays, or just because—and every gift helps protect wildlife and keep the Zoo wild for future generations.

ECO-CELL Drive

When you recycle your handheld electronics in the ECO-CELL electronic recycling bin at the Central Florida Zoo, they will be recycled or refurbished. We send every dollar to support reputable conservation organizations who are saving gorillas in their native ranges in collaboration with local communities.

Visit centralfloridazoo.org for more information



ZOO CAMPS

Spring Break Ages 5-6, 6-8, 9-12
Summer Camp Ages 5-6, 6-8, 9-12, 13-17

Get ready for wild adventures! Our Spring Break and Summer Camps offer unforgettable experiences filled with animal encounters, nature exploration, games, crafts, and hands-on learning. Campers will discover the wonders of wildlife while making new friends and memories that last a lifetime. Spots fill fast—don't miss out!

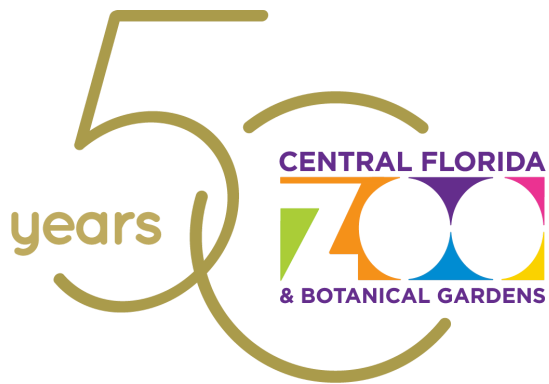
Check online at Centralfloridazoo.org for registration

WILDLY UNIQUE EVENTS & MEETINGS

Host your next meeting, party, or special event in a space that's anything but ordinary! The Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens offers unique indoor and outdoor venues surrounded by nature and wildlife. Whether you're planning a board meeting, birthday party, family reunion, or celebration, our event spaces bring a fun and unforgettable twist to your gathering. Add optional animal encounters or guided experiences to truly wow your guests!

Email events@centralfloridazoo.org for more information





For more information,
call 407-323-4450 x 123 or
email education@centralfloridazoo.org.

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