

Zoo Day

School Program

For any booking questions, modifications or cancellations, please contact our booking office directly:

Phone **780-442-1442**

Email **cmsschoolbookings@edmonton.ca**

Field Trip Preparation

Adult Supervisors

Adult supervisors are admitted free of charge with the program in the following ratios:

- Preschool: 1 adult per 3 children
- K – Grade 6: 1 adult per 5 children
- Grades 7 – 12: 1 adult per 10 children

Additional parents (exceeding a total of 40 individuals) will be asked to pay facility admission fees and tour the facility on their own. Additional participants can rejoin the group after the registered program ends.

Please inform adult supervisors that they will be asked to help out with group activities and that they are there to supervise the group. With young children, it is helpful to have your students arranged into smaller groups assigned to a parent helper leader before the program begins. You and your adult helpers' encouragement and active participation in all activities will help to make this learning experience a truly positive one for your students! Adult supervisors should not be bringing younger children (e.g. babies in strollers) to the program. We want all parent volunteers to be focused on supervising the children in the program.

Group Size

- The maximum number of **children** permitted in a program is 30. Groups exceeding 30 children must book an additional program.
- The maximum number of **individuals** (adult supervisors and children) permitted in a single program is 40. Groups exceeding 40 individuals in total must book an additional program.
- To ensure a high quality program we recommend that all children participating in a program be within the age range advertised for the program.

Name Tags

Please have your students wear name tags; this helps the interpreter acknowledge the students by name.

Special Needs

Please inform your interpreter, in advance of the program, about students with: learning disabilities, physical disabilities, medical concerns (including allergies*), or behavioural issues. Please also indicate any strategies you use with students to help them have success in the classroom.

Program content and activity locations can be adjusted, if necessary, to accommodate students with special needs.

Please advise your interpreter of any allergies your students have or indicate any allergy concerns at the time of bookings. The Zoo is **not a nut-free or fragrance-free facility, as many animals eat seeds and nuts as part of their diet, and receive daily enrichments that may include scents (including extracts and spices). Common allergens encountered at the zoo include fur, feathers, dust, pollen, straw, and hay.*

Zoo Rules

For zoo programs, it is usually a good idea to go over some basic ground rules and expectations for behaviour for the field trip. Some suggestions:

1. Keep with the group at all times (sometimes a buddy system or dividing the kids into small groups each with an adult leader is helpful).
2. Keep fingers out of the enclosures. Sometimes the animal may not know the difference between a yummy snack and someone's fingers.
3. Don't try to touch an animal unless the interpreter says it's okay for the same reason given above. There may be some chances for encounters and touching animals but let the leader tell you when it is an appropriate time for that.
4. Do not climb any fences. We have had quite a few students slip and hurt themselves from climbing, so it's a good reminder to ask them to keep both feet on the ground.
5. Anything else you think may be necessary to ensure appropriate behaviour from your class. The interpreter will review these rules at the start of the program and add anything they think is necessary

What to Bring

1) Appropriate Clothing and Footwear

Please make sure your students (and adults) dress for the weather as some of the activities will take place outdoors. It is important to dress for hot sunny weather (hat, sunscreen, bug spray) as well as cold or wet weather (jacket, extra sweater, raincoat, hat, mitts, snow boots, and appropriate footwear). For hot sunny days, we also recommend that each participant brings a refillable water bottle.

For your group's safety and comfort while walking around the zoo, we recommend comfortable, closed-toed footwear.

2) Lunch!

An indoor classroom lunch space is provided for this program! You will also be able to store your lunches in the classroom when you are out exploring.

Please Note: There are no microwaves or refrigerators available to heat or store food.

Schools and groups are responsible for cleaning up after themselves, ensuring that all garbage and recyclable containers are deposited in the correct bins (garbage bins or blue recycling bins).

3) Classroom or Group Activity Sheets/Workbooks

You are welcome to bring any worksheets or notebooks for students to fill out during your program. Please let your interpreter know in advance if you would like him/her to include any information specific to these worksheet activities during your program.

What Not to Bring

For health and safety considerations of both humans and animals, we ask that you do not bring into the Zoo:

- o Balloons and kites
- o Sparklers and other fireworks
- o Pets or other animals*
- o Your own BBQs or indoor grills (for preparing food on-site)
- o Food items to donate to the Zoo for the animals or for feeding the animals
- o Bicycles, children's scooters, or inline skates (for use and/or lock-up)

*Service dogs that are accompanying persons with disabilities are permitted. Please be prepared to present your documentation for your service dog to the cashiers at the front gate. Service dogs without appropriate certification will not be permitted to enter the Zoo.

Interpreter Contact

The interpreter assigned to lead your program will contact you (the main contact person who booked the program) at least 48 hours prior to your field trip to confirm details with you. If you have not heard from your interpreter within 48 business hours and have questions about your program, please call the program coordinator at 780-496-3924.

Please note: the interpreter will first try to contact you by email. They may also try to call the phone number you have provided. If you wish to leave an alternate phone number where you can be reached during the daytime or evening, please ask the booking agent to include this number as a “note for the interpreter”.

- **If you have booked multiple classes/groups for multiple programs**, only the person listed as the primary contact for these will be contacted.
- **If you have booked programs on behalf of other teachers or groups**, please pass along any information provided by the interpreter to the adult supervisors who will be accompanying the group(s).
- **If you will not be attending the field trip yourself but are listed as the program contact**, please inform the interpreter when they call. If possible, please also provide the name(s) of the supervisors who will be accompanying the group at the time of booking.

Payment & Cancellation Procedures

Payment

- The amount owing is shown on your program confirmation. Payment is required prior to the program.
- Invoices are mailed out by the City on the first of each month. You will receive your invoice the same month as your program runs. For example, for a May booking, your invoice will be issued on May 1.
- Payment can be made by cash, cheque, Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Please have cheques made payable to The City of Edmonton, and write your booking confirmation numbers on your cheques.
- Payment can be phoned in: 311 or 780-442-1442.
- Cheques can be mailed to:
Citizen Services Payment Processing
PO Box 2359
19th Floor Edmonton Tower
Edmonton, AB, T5J 2R7

Program Cancellation

- You are required to submit written notice of cancellation of your programs by email to: cmsschoolbookings@edmonton.ca.
- Programs cancelled with 30 or more days' notice will not be charged the program fee or a cancellation fee.

- Programs cancelled with 8-29 days' notice are subject to be charged 50% of the program fee, unless the cancellation is filled by a waitlisted group.
- For programs cancelled with 7 or less days' notice, the full program fee will be charged.
- Programs run rain or shine. In the event of poor weather, you must call 780-442-1442 or email cmsschoolbookings@edmonton.ca if you are not coming.
- Programs cancelled due to severe weather conditions but are rescheduled within the current school year, or the upcoming school years' fall term (Sept-Nov), will not be charged a cancellation fee.

Arrival Procedures

Your interpreter will meet you in the main plaza of the Zoo for the start of your program. If you will be arriving at the zoo for a program prior to the time that the zoo opens to the public, you can wait in the plaza if the gates are open, or you can wait just outside the gates if they are still closed.

We recommend that you organize your group(s) on the bus before disembarking.

Admission is included in your program fees. We strongly recommend touring the Zoo after your scheduled program to make a whole day out of your field trip. The zoo is generally open 9 - 4 until Thanksgiving then 10 - 4 until the May long weekend. Check the [website for hours](#).

Program Information

Why not spend your whole day at the Zoo? Zoo Day lets you pick **two** of our 1.5 hour programs and put them together for a whole day adventure. Between your programs, a lunch room is provided, so you don't have to worry about finding a place to eat.* Plus, you'll still have some time at the end of the day for self-guided discovery.

**Lunch is not provided.*

Only one Zoo Day is offered per day from Sep. - Apr. This program is not available May - Aug. Book early to guarantee your spot.

This program is offered Sep. - April for schools and groups.

Program Activities

This program includes two 1.5 hour programs, as well as 45 minutes for lunch. The schedule is:

9:30 - 11:00 AM → First program

11:00 - 11:45 AM → Lunch (lunch room provided)

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM → Second program

1:15 - Pick-up → Free time for self-guided discovery

You can pick the two 1.5 hour programs you would like from the following list:

Animals Around the World (K and up)

Animal Senses (K and up)

Fur, Feathers and Scales (K and up)

Northern Safari Tour (K and up)

Night Creatures (Grade 1 and up)

Be a Zookeeper (Grade 3 and up)

Endangered Species (Grade 3 and up)

Winter Zoo (Grade 1 and up) - only available Nov. - Mar.

A Merry Zoo Christmas (Preschool-Grade 4) - only available Mon - Thurs, Nov. - Dec.

For more information about these programs, please refer to the [website](#).

Questions?

Please view our online **School and Group Programs FAQ**:

http://www.edmonton.ca/attractions_events/edmonton_valley_zoo/zoo-school-group-programs-faq.aspx

You may also call the program coordinator at 780-496-3924.

We look forward to seeing you at the Edmonton Valley Zoo!