

Field Trips

at the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium



Policies, Procedures and Pricing – Please read this completely before scheduling your visit.
You must have a reservation to receive the group rate for all types of visits!

Types of Visits

All groups wishing to receive the school group rate are required to submit a field trip reservation form (located online at <https://www.pittsburghzoo.org/schoolgroups>) at least three weeks prior to your date of choice. Your trip must be paid for in full at least two weeks in advance of your trip date. Please see Pricing and Payment below for more information.

Learning Adventures

Add an animal encounter and expert-led educational program to your visit! Participate in one of our developmentally appropriate, standards-aligned Learning Adventures programs for preschool-college at a reduced cost compared to regular gate admission. Class descriptions can be found by visiting: <https://www.pittsburghzoo.org/schoolgroups>

Self-Guided

The Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium offers group rate admission for schools and scout groups. Enjoy a self-guided tour of the Zoo at your own pace, any day we're open.

Special Needs Groups

The Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium is pleased to offer free admission to special needs organizations. If your organization serves individuals with developmental disabilities or who are mentally or physically challenged, please send a letter on your organization letterhead detailing the date of your planned Zoo visit, the number of people in your group including chaperones, and a brief description of your organization. Please note: we do not offer free admission based solely on economic need or non-profit status. If approved, you will receive a letter for free admission, so please include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Requests should be sent to:

Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium
Attn: Terry Deluliis, Executive Assistant
One Wild Place
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Please allow three weeks for processing. Your free admission letter is for a self-guided tour only. If you have any questions regarding special needs groups only, please email tdeiuliis@pittsburghzoo.org or call 412-365-2500.

Pricing

Pricing has changed for 2023-2024 school year. Please read over the information below.

2023 Prices			
Jan. – Dec. (unless otherwise noted)	Self-guided visit (Any grade No program)	Preschool-Gr. 12 Learning Adventures (excluding the Zoo Life program for grades 7-12)	Animal Encounters for College Students & Zoo Life tour for Gr. 7-12 (September-April only)
Per person for 15 or more paying participants	\$15	\$16	\$17

- **NEW THIS YEAR:** Your trip must be paid in full at least 2 weeks in advance of your trip date.
- All prices are per person. School/camp staff including teachers, teacher's aides, camp counselors, school nurses, and bus drivers will receive free admission on the day of your trip (must have school/camp issued ID).
- Reservations must be made at least 3 weeks in advance by submitting a reservation form online at <https://www.pittsburghzoo.org/schoolgroups>.
- Minimum group size is 15 paying participants. Groups of less than 15 do not need a reservation and should expect to pay the gate rate (varies depending on the time of the year).
- Adult (parent) chaperones pay the same rate as youth participants, unless they are members (see member policies on the following page).
- At least one adult chaperone per 10 students is required.
- Students must be supervised at all times.
- For homeschool groups, only the trip organizer is free.
- For scout groups, up to two leaders are free.
- Any day is fine for a self-guided (no program) visit. If you'd like to schedule a Learning Adventures program, please list at least three possible dates on your form. Be sure that the dates you list are actual possibilities before submitting your form, as program rescheduling cannot be guaranteed.
- A maximum of 4 adults is permitted in each classroom program (teachers/school staff preferred).
- We are not able to make exceptions to our policies. We appreciate your understanding.
- Incomplete forms will not be processed.
- Wristbands will no longer be issued to school or scout groups.
- The policies and prices above are current as of January 1, 2024, and are subject to change at any time. Submitting a field trip reservation form will schedule your visit. Please contact us with any questions prior to scheduling a visit – learn@pittsburghzoo.org or 412-365-2528.

Scheduling Your Trip

Once you submit your field trip reservation form, our helpful staff will process your request and schedule your visit. Our staff will contact you to confirm your date. Final numbers and payment must be received at least two weeks prior to your visit.

Payment Options

NEW as of January 1, 2024 group members will no longer receive wristbands to enter the zoo. Our gate staff will check in your group, at which time any additional students or chaperones not included in the final numbers must pay the current gate rate. Please see below for Zoo member policies. Refunds will not be given if the day of group numbers are less than the final numbers provided.

The Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium offers two payment options:

1. **Credit Card Payment:** Credit Card information must be provided at least two weeks prior to your trip date. Payment will be processed and the Credit Card will be charged at this time. If you can no longer visit once final payment is received, we will work with you to reschedule within the school year based on availability.
2. **Check payment:** If you choose to pay by check, we must receive the check at least two weeks before your visit to the Zoo. We cannot issue refunds for orders paid by check under any circumstance. If you can no longer visit once final payment is received, we will work with you to reschedule within the school year based on availability.

Payment policies for Zoo members:

- **Zoo Member policy for Learning Adventures programs:**
Member adults chaperoning the trip can go through any ticket window with their membership card and appropriate identification. They should not be included in the group count. Member students that are visiting, whether or not their parent is present, must pay the same fees as their classmates for the educational program.
- **Zoo Member policy for self-guided tours only:**
Member adults chaperoning a school or group visit to the Zoo are permitted to use their Membership for themselves and their child. Please bring your membership card and proper identification. They should not be included in the group count. Member students who do not have a parent attending are not permitted to use their Zoo Membership and should be included in the group count.

Late Payment Policy

Final payment is required at least two weeks prior to your trip date. If final payment is not received by this date, your visit and/or program are subject to cancellation. Reservations received less than two weeks in advance will also incur a \$30 late fee.

Cancellation Policy

The Pittsburgh Zoo is a rain or shine facility. Learning Adventure programs can be rescheduled within the school year based on availability. Self-guided tours can be rescheduled for any day.

Parking

Parking is free for all vehicles including school buses.

Lunch at the Zoo

Let the Zoo coordinate lunch for your group. Choose a [prepared boxed lunch](#) that will satisfy your wildest taste buds. Order prepared lunches at least three weeks prior to your field trip by contacting the Zoo's catering department, The SSA Group/Taste Catering at 412-365-6003 or by email at catering@pittsburghzoo.org.

Purchase Lunch at the Zoo's Concession Stands

You can also pre-pay for lunches for your field trip and receive Zoo Bucks (available in \$1 increments only) that you can provide to your students and chaperones. Zoo Bucks can be used at all concession stands and Zoo gift shops. Please contact The SSA Group at 412-365-6012 to order and pay for Zoo Bucks.

Bring your lunch

You are welcome to have your students bring their own lunches to the Zoo, however, we are not able to store or deliver lunches for you. If you have a large group, you may want to consider renting a pavilion for the day. We have three pavilions, and they can be rented at a discounted rate for schools.

Zoo Pavilions available for rent:			
Pavilion	Capacity	Fee/day (for school groups only)	Location
Kids Kingdom	40	\$150	Kids Kingdom
Village	80	\$175	Village (at the top of the escalator)
PNC	192	\$350	Water's Edge

Day of Visit Policies

- Please contact us with questions prior to your arrival.
- We ask that all schools and/or groups have proper adult supervision with at least one adult for every ten students, regardless of grade level. If possible, one adult for every five students is preferred.
- If participating in a Learning Adventures classroom program, up to 4 school staff are required to be in the classroom with the students. Teachers have been assigned to teach your program(s) and will meet you in the lobby of the Education Complex, unless otherwise noted on your confirmation. Please be prompt.
- All supervisors/chaperones must stay with their groups at all times. Each school/group is responsible for any damage or inappropriate student/chaperone behavior. Grades 6 through 12 will be asked to sign a visitation agreement outlining behavior and chaperone guidelines. This agreement form will be attached to your email confirmation along with your invoice. We have the right to remove any person or group from Zoo grounds due to inappropriate behavior. Please be sure that all chaperones are aware of their responsibilities through the entire visit.
- Students are required to wear a name tag. The name tags should include the student's name, the school's/group's name, and a phone number where someone can be reached in the event that the child is separated from their group.
- During our busiest months (April-May) we will have a greeter to meet your bus and provide you with information. The greeter will need to know the number of attendees in your group. During our less busy months, your trip organizer may proceed to the admission gates for check-in. Please do not allow your group to loiter on the entrance plaza at any time.
- Before you arrive, please take the time to review and share the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium policies: <https://www.pittsburghzoo.org/policies>
- You are welcome to pack lunches (no glass containers or alcohol is permitted); however, Zoo staff is not able to transport them for you.
- We are a tobacco-free Zoo. Smoking, chewing, and vaping are prohibited on Zoo grounds.
- If you must cancel or reschedule your visit for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible.

Thank you for your interest in visiting the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium!

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Conservation Education Department

One Wild Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15206

412-365-2528

learn@pittsburghzoo.org