

# ZSI: Zoo Scene Investigations Overnight

at the

Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium

## Chaperone Guide and FAQs

### Who should attend?

- Children who belong to the scout or youth group and siblings in grades 1-6
- Group leaders and chaperones to meet our recommended ratio of 1 adult to 4 children.
- All participants must purchase tickets at least 2 weeks prior to your Overnight program. We cannot add participants upon your arrival to the Zoo.

### What time do we arrive and where do we check in?

- ALL participants must arrive at 6:45pm and enter the Zoo as one group.
- If you are running late, please call 412-760-7452.
- Parking is in the main zoo parking lot off Butler Street. A security guard or zoo instructor will meet your group at the admission gates.

### Can participants or chaperones arrive late?

- No. Due to safety concerns all participants must arrive by 6:45pm and enter the Zoo as one group.

### What should we bring?

- Pajamas, slippers or socks, a pillow and sleeping bag, toiletries, hand towel, washcloth, a change of clothing for the next day, camera, and a flashlight. You may bring an air mattress or foam pad if desired.
- A water bottle.
- PACK LIGHTLY! You will be carrying your belongings to the Education Complex. Consider bringing a wagon to help transport your belongings.
- Please leave your valuables at home, as the Zoo is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

### Who will be with us for our program?

- There will be two Education staff members conducting your program. One staff member will remain with your group overnight.
- A Zoo Security Guard is always on duty.

### What should we wear?

- Casual, comfortable clothing with weather appropriate outerwear and suitable shoes for walking outdoors. We will be going outside regardless of the weather conditions.
- The temperature in the Education Complex fluctuates. Please be prepared for cool and warm temperatures.

### Is there food available?

- Please be sure that your group eats a full dinner before arriving at the zoo. Concessions will not be available.
- A light snack will be provided at approximately 8:30pm.
- Breakfast will include cereal, oatmeal, granola or breakfast bars, milk, juice, coffee and tea.

### Where will we be sleeping?

- In the Education Complex on a commercially carpeted floor. For your safety, the doors to the building will be locked overnight.

### **When will the program end?**

- Between 8:45-9:00am.
- You will be asked to return your belongings to your car at the end of the program.
- You will be provided with a group admission pass that is valid for ONLY for that day's visit, regardless of weather. The pass is for the entire group and you must re-enter the zoo as a group.

### **What is expected of trip organizers?**

- Be sure your entire group arrives on time so we can be prompt with beginning your program.
- Give all participants nametags to be worn for the duration of your program.
- All group leaders and chaperones must have access to emergency contact information for each person in your group.

### **What is expected of chaperones?**

- Chaperones are expected to keep groups organized and behaving appropriately. Disrespectful and destructive behaviors are unacceptable and can result in the termination of the program.
- Chaperones should always stay with the group, participate in all scheduled activities, and assist in the distribution of food and craft supplies.
- Alcoholic beverages and the use of tobacco products (including vapes) are prohibited on Zoo grounds. We do not have a designated smoking area within the Zoo.

### **How can family members contact us in the event of an emergency?**

- First contact your group leader.
- If you are unable to reach your group leader, call our overnight staff member at: 412-760-7452

### **Agenda \***

6:45pm: Group arrival

7:00pm-8:30pm: Icebreaker, ZSI Activities, Animal Visits, & Snack

8:30pm-9:15pm: Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

9:15pm-10:00pm: Craft and Animal Visits

10:00pm-10:15pm: Get ready for bed

10:15pm: Lights Out

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7:30am-8:00am: Wake-up and pack belongings

8:00am-8:30am: Breakfast

8:30am-9:00 am: Animal Visits

9:00am: Program ends

*\* Times are approximate and the agenda is subject to change without notice.*

While we feel confident that your group members will conduct themselves with respectful behavior towards the animals, staff, and other guests of the Zoo, the Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium reserves the right to deny groups or individuals with inappropriate behavior the opportunity to participate in animal visits. In extreme cases, groups or individuals could be asked to leave the premises without a refund. If you have any questions, please email [learn@pittsburghzoo.org](mailto:learn@pittsburghzoo.org) or call 412-365-2528.