

ZOOschool

Wildest Classroom in Town!



Amarillo
ZOO

Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a list of frequently asked questions about our school programs.

Do I need to make reservations if my school class is coming for a field trip?

Yes, all groups are required to make reservations for their visit. This helps us better prepare for your visit. Reservations are required at least 2 weeks prior to the date you plan to visit.

Why do we need to pre- register for field trips this year?

We ask all groups to pre-register for their visit. This allows us to be better prepared for busy days. To pre-register you can call (806) 381-7911 or 381-5605. Please be prepared to provide school name, address, phone, email, fax plus total number of students, chaperones and teachers. You aren't required to pay in advance for your field trip but will be required to pay on the day of your visit.

How far in advance do I need to make my reservations?

Field trip, outreach and educational programs should be booked at least 2 weeks from the desired date.

Why is there a maximum number of students allowed for each program?

In order to ensure a more personal and effective learning experience for your students, we have restricted the allowed number of students for many of the programs we offer. We have found that when we are working with small groups, there is more time to interact with each student, activities are more engaging, students have greater enjoyment of the experience, and learning is greatly enhanced. While there are limits on the number of students in each structured lesson, these limits do not pertain to the total size of the group you bring to the Zoo.

Can we purchase lunch at the zoo?

Yes, but you must pre-order your lunches at least 48 hours prior to your visit. This will allow us to have your lunches ready at a pre-determined time for your group. To make an order for safari lunches please call (806) 381-5605.

Can we bring our lunches to the zoo and where can we eat?

We do not allow outside food or drink to be brought inside the zoo. If you are planning on bringing your own lunches it is best to leave them on the bus until it is time to eat. You can eat at picnic tables in Thompson Park or sit on one of the many grassy areas near the front entrance.

Can we touch the animals?

Almost every program includes a touchable animal. Instructors will guide participants in methods of safely touching one or more of the program animals.

If I have more than one group scheduled for a class, what will students who are not in a lesson do during that time?

While part of your group is attending a program the other may explore the zoo on their own. To enhance your students' learning experience, you may download one of several scavenger hunt sheets from the zoo website www.amarillozoo.org

How long does it take to go through the Zoo?

The engagement and preparation of your group chaperones often dictates how long it takes to go through the Zoo. Well-prepared and engaged chaperones can generally guide their group through the exhibits in about an hour. To best prepare your chaperones, it often helps for teachers to visit the Zoo prior to your group visit.

What happens in the event of rain or severe weather on the day of my trip?

We encourage all visiting groups to maintain their reservation status. If it's cold or rainy, there are still lots of fun things to see and the Zoo probably won't be crowded. However, in the case of severe weather, you may contact the Zoo at (806) 381-7911 or 381-5605 to reschedule your program. It is possible for some animals to be off exhibit for certain reasons such as severe or inclement weather. Amarillo Zoo does not offer rain checks or refunds once you have entered the Zoo.

When will I receive confirmation of my request?

You will receive either an email or faxed confirmation within 1 week of booking your program/field trip.

What animals will I see in the program?

Due to the nature of live animals we cannot guarantee any specific animals. Please be aware that we cannot bring large dangerous animals such as lions, bears or monkeys. The animals used in both our on and off-site programs are generally small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates.

When and how can I pay for programs?

Payment is due the day of the program. You can use cash, check (made out to the Amarillo Zoo), credit card or a school purchase order. Receipts can be obtained at the front gate upon check-in.

Still have questions?

Call 806-381-7911 or email zoo@amarilloparks.org

School and Group Programs

2015

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Amarillo Zoo

P.O. Box 1971 • Amarillo, Texas 79105

Main (806) 381-7911 Fax: (806) 381-7901

Education (806) 381-5605

www.amarillozoo.org

Email: zoo@amarilloparks.org

Hours of Operation:

9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

7 Days a Week

Admission:

Adults \$4.00 (ages 13 to 61)

Seniors \$3.00 (ages 62 and up)

Children \$2.00 (ages 3 to 12)

Group Rates: Available when one person makes a lump sum payment for 20 or more people that enter the zoo together. Adults, Seniors & Children: \$1

Want to add to your tour? Enrich your visit by booking a program for your child. See page 6 for programming and page 7 for most frequently asked questions

Closed: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

Educator E-Mail List

Want to get the "inside scoop" on zoo happenings? Subscribe to the Amarillo Zoo's electronic email notification for educators by sending your name and e-mail to zoo@amarilloparks.org





Self-Guided Backpacks

Planning a visit to the Zoo and looking for a way to make your curriculum come alive? Enrich your students' experience with one of our self-guided backpack programs! Students and teachers receive a short orientation (10 minutes) on the use of the backpacks while touring the Zoo.

Please note: One backpack will be checked out to the lead teacher. Backpacks contain biofacts such as replicas of teeth and claws, fur and feather samples and other biofacts and teaching aids. An easy to follow guide is included for the teacher to use at various exhibits throughout the Zoo.

Pack rental is \$10 for 2-hours.



Adventures begin at the Zoo!

ZooSchool On-Site Classroom Programs

Pre k – K (30 minutes)

Jungle Adventures

Students will meet and learn about exotic creatures from the tropical rainforest. Program will feature live animals including reptiles, amphibians, birds and arthropods.



Fur, Feather, Scales and Slime

This program will explore the basic characteristics of the vertebrate classes including birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals.

Grades 1-6 (50 minutes)

Animals Have Class

Fur, feathers, skin, and scales! This class explores how scientists group animals and investigates how body coverings enable animals to survive in their habitats.

Rainforest Adventures

We'll discover the unique variety of reptiles, amphibians, birds and invertebrates that live in rainforest habitats throughout the world.

Insects and Spiders

We'll take a close-up and hands-on look at some of the common and exotic insects and spiders from the Texas Panhandle and throughout the world!

Adapted for Survival

Animals can do some pretty amazing things to help them survive. Students will learn about camouflage, mimicry and other elaborate defenses animals use to avoid becoming someone's dinner.

Tales of Scales

Scaly and slimy creatures will greet your students as we learn about reptiles and amphibians found throughout the world. Students will see live examples of snakes, turtles, toads and lizards.

Wild Texas

Learn the complexity of the ecological benefits of prairie dog communities. In this program you will meet the animals that depend on prairie dog towns for food and shelter including the endangered black-footed ferret.

Fee: \$2.00 per person Min fee \$50

Class Size: Maximum 35 students



Safari Show

Introduce your students to a variety of live animals in an up-close experience in our outdoor amphitheater.

Fee: \$2.00 per person in addition to general zoo admission. Minimum fee \$30.00

Maximum number of participants for a program is 60 people.

ZOOmobile

Outreach Programs.

A **ZOOmobile** visit can be an enriching and stimulating experience for all involved. Our community ZOOmobile visits schools, day cares, summer camps, nursing and assisted living homes, retirement homes, senior centers, club meetings and social groups. This flexible 1-hour program offers animal information in a fun and educational manner. Participants will be provided with the opportunity to see animals up close and even touch a few. Zoo staff and volunteers handle the animals in a controlled setting. There will also be plenty of time throughout the program for questions.

Grades 1-6 (50 minutes)

Insects and Spiders

We'll take a close-up and hands-on look at some of the common and exotic insects and spiders from the Texas Panhandle and throughout the world!

Animals from Around the World!

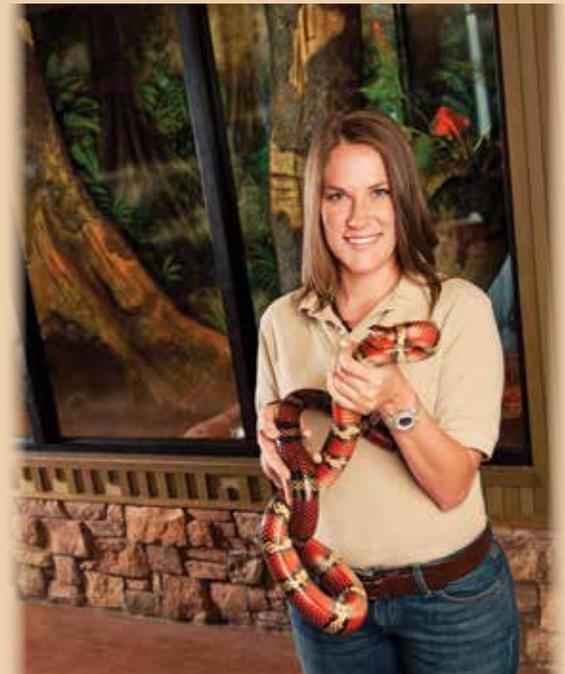
During this animal encounter students will get up close with reptiles, mammals, birds and arthropods. Students will learn about adaptations and behaviors in a program catered to fit your group's age and grade.

Rainforest

Featuring a unique variety of animals, the Zoo educator will bring to life the tropical rainforest in your classroom. Live animals including reptiles, amphibians, birds and arthropods will be shown.

North American WILDS!

This program will feature wildlife native to North America including reptiles, mammals, amphibians and arthropods. Students will learn about characteristics, adaptations and behaviors that aid these animals in their survival.



“Explore the amazing world with animals right in your own classroom!”

“Meet and Greet” Discovery Station

An informal interactive learning station suitable for large functions like school fairs, business functions, career fairs etc. This program consists of a several small live animals plus touchable items like furs, feathers, skulls and more!

Fee: \$85 per hour

Prek-K (30 minutes)

Fur, Feather, Scales and Slime

This program will explore the basic characteristics of the vertebrate classes including birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Live animals and touchable biofacts will be used to enhance the learning experience.

Your School Can be a ZOO!
Can't come to us? Then we can come to you!



ZOOmobile Outreach Programs.



Availability:

Tuesday ~ Saturday
9:30 am ~ 4:00 pm
Group Size: Max/40
Group Level: K ~ Adult

Fees:

\$75.00 Programs inside Amarillo City Limits
\$50.00 *For each consecutive program at same location*

\$125.00 Programs outside Amarillo City Limits
\$75.00 *For each consecutive program at same location*

.51 Round-trip mileage fee will also apply
to programs conducted outside of
Amarillo

Field Trip Planner

We are excited about your visit to the Amarillo Zoo. We have provided a checklist to help prepare and ensure your time here is the best it can be.

Prepare Yourself

- Use your teacher planning pass. It provides you with a free zoo visit before your trip. You can download a pass at amarillozoo.org.
- Download and review pre-and post materials and any scavenger hunt sheets you would like to use.

Prepare Your Chaperones

- One chaperone for each 10 students
- Chaperones must stay with the group and wear a name tag identifying them as chaperones for your class.
- Chaperones need a list of students in their group, an itinerary and copies of class assignments or worksheets and have an understanding of the behavior standards. They should be familiar with zoo manners.
- Download a chaperone planning sheet to help you prepare for your field trip at amarillozoo.org.

Be Prepared To Enter The Front Gate

Please have the exact count for the number of children and adults in your group.

- One person from your school/group should present the exact number of children and adults to the admissions booth, along with payment.
- Bring cash, a purchase order, credit card or school check payable to the “Amarillo Zoo” in the exact amount.
- While the students are lining up this is the perfect time for the chaperones to do a last minute review of zoo manners with the students.

PLEASE NOTE:

The Amarillo Zoo does not allow outside food and beverages to cut down on the amount of litter in the Zoo and to keep our animals safe. Thank you for your compliance and understanding!

Field trip Manners

1. Do Not feed the animals

Keep the animals healthy. Zoo animals receive carefully considered, measured diets based on the needs of their species. Feeding by visitors can result in obesity, and physical and psychological problems. Begging is an unnatural and potentially dangerous behavior for animals. Please do not feed the animals.

2. Keep feet below the top rail

Climbing can be very dangerous. Some animals perceive climbers as invaders of their territory. This can cause stress and illness.

3. Keep the peace for animals

Screaming or tapping on the glass is stressful to animals. Noise can be invasive such as howling at the coyotes or roaring at the lions and tigers. This may frighten the animal into hiding or being still. Accepting an animals’ right to be left in peace is important. Chasing or disturbing free-ranging animals such as peacocks, squirrels and rabbits is a serious, infringement of rules and dangerous for the animals and students. A close look is best achieved quietly and slowly.

4. Keep trash where it belongs

Trash is ugly and potentially dangerous. Animals may eat it or become entangled in it. Trash may blow from the ground into exhibits. Throwing anything at animals is also a serious infringement of the rules. Offenders may be asked to leave. Please clean up all your trash.

5. Keep your pace slow

Make the zoo pleasant and safe for everyone. Please no running.

Cancellation Policy

- 15 days or more before the program date – full refund
- 1-14 days before the program date – full refund minus \$25 administrative fee.
- No notice of cancellation – No Refund

All cancellation notices must be made in writing.

Essential Information:

- Rest rooms are located at the concession stand
- There is no first aid stations but if you need any medical assistance you can notify any staff you may see
- There are no public phones
- Vending machines are available that sell water, soft drinks and fruit drinks and are located at the concession stand

Exhibits



Here is just a sample of what you will experience when you visit the Amarillo Zoo. These are descriptions of some of our key exhibits, but there is so much more to see! Come visit us to get the full zoo experience!

Panhandle-Plains Overlook - Look out across a 5-acre exhibit to view some of the hoofstock that roamed the rolling Panhandle-Plains. Bison, elk and pronghorn roam throughout this exhibit.

Herpetarium - Commonly referred to as the "Reptile House," the herpetarium also houses 26 exhibits featuring lizards, frogs and salamanders from around the world.



Ranch Animals - Outdoor exhibits featuring farm animals such as horses, donkeys, sheep, goats and a longhorn.

Native Wildlife - A series of exhibits featuring some of the smaller animal life native to Texas.

Black Bears - Spot one of our 3 large black bears from our viewing deck as they roam about a landscaped exhibit.

Monkey Island - As soon as you enter the zoo you are greeted by the antics of our black-handed spider monkey troop.

Cats - Come early and you might hear the roar of our male African lion. You can also view tigers, bobcats and servals.



WILD Encounters

Home School Afternoons

Enhance your children's home school curriculum by weaving some "Wild Encounters" into their school day. These engaging programs encourage home school students to learn about the importance of conservation by exploring the world of animals. These are both enjoyable and educational programs that feature animal presentations and animal artifacts. You and your students will have a chance to meet others from the home school community while getting a close up look at some of the Amarillo Zoo's education animals.

Wild Encounters program is available Tuesday – Thursday afternoons

Program Length: 1 Hour

Cost: \$5 per person

Min: 10

Max: 25

To Book a WILD Encounters program call the Zoo's education department 806-381-5605. Programs must be booked 2 weeks in advance.

Wild Nights

Experience the zoo at night in this popular overnight program. Enjoy after-dark adventures and nature activities, then sleep indoors in the education center.

A pizza dinner, late-night snack, and continental breakfast are included. Perfect for schools, scouts, and other organized groups of up to 30 people serving children

Ages 7 to 12.

Programs are available Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, late April through October. Programs begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 a.m.

A nonrefundable \$50 deposit is required to hold reservation.

Cost is \$25 per child, \$15 for each supervising adult and teacher; \$500 minimum fee.



New! *Bill & Alice O'Brien* Education Center



- Classroom Programs
- Teacher Workshops
- Exhibits featuring native and exotic animals from around the world!



Photo: Amarillo Globe-News



Once thought extinct the endangered Black-footed Ferret is now on exhibit in the Amarillo Zoo's Education Center.

Open:

Tuesday - Saturday 9:30am-4:00pm

Sunday Noon-5:00pm

Closed Monday

(may also be closed at times for programs)



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www.amarillozoo.org