

Outreach Programs

Contact kbowes@eriezoo.org or 814-864-4091 x 1127 to schedule. You can also check the website under traveling zoo and download and send in the request form for consideration.

We can adapt most programs to fit any age group.

Infant/Toddler (30 minutes)

Color Zoo

- Red bird, green lizard, blue fish – the animal kingdom is full of color!
- Join some of the Erie Zoo's ambassador animals to learn and explore our colorful world!
- We will also read the "Alphaprints: Colors" board book.
- 3 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Peek-a-Zoo!

- Whose behind that paw, flipper, or wing? Find out what sounds different animals make while meeting some of our noisy animal neighbors.
- We will also read the "Peek-A-Zoo" book.
- 3 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Pre-K-1st (45 minutes)

1, 2, 3 Count With Me

- The students will listen to a counting book and count together with the story.
- The students will count whiskers, legs, and toes of the Zoo animals.
- Book: "Count to 10 with a Mouse"
- 2 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Animal Bop

- Children will learn how different animals move and why they move the way they do. They will also learn if the animals have special body parts that help them move the way they do.
- Book: "The Animal Bop Won't Stop"
- 2 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Do Frogs Have Fur?

- The students will gain a basic knowledge of what animals need to survive.
- The students will learn about animal coverings through animal visitors and a cute story.
- Book: "Do Frogs Have Fur?"
- 2 live animals per program. Fur, feathers, scales, spines

Say What?

- “Squeak” says the mouse, “Hiss” says the...cockroach? Have the zoo come to you to hear some unique animals make their sounds. Can you make animal sounds too?
- 2 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)
- Book: “Mice Squeak, We Speak”

The Living Alphabet

- The students will listen to an alphabet book and name animals that start with the letters of the alphabet. For example, Alligator begins with the letter “A”.
- Sing ABC’s
- Book: “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom”
- 2 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

K-3rd (45 minutes)

Mammals vs. Reptiles

- The students will learn the characteristics of mammals and reptiles and what makes them different from each other and other animals.
- Talk about their adaptations
- 2 live animals per program; 1 mammals and 1 reptile plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Rainforest Rhythms

- To give the students an overview of how a rainforest is layered and the characteristics the organisms have that live in the rainforest.
- Book: “The Umbrella” by Jan Brett
- 2 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Smitten For Mittens

- Do animals wear mittens? In the book, “The Mitten” by Jan Brett, some woodland animals sure will try. Just how many animals can fit into that mitten?
- The students will be given an opportunity to learn about adaptations of animals for the winter
- 2 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly

- The students will have the opportunity to interact with various "creepy crawlies" and investigate why people think that they are "yucky"
- Old lady puppet and book: “The Old Lady who Swallowed a Fly”
- 2 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

3rd- 5th grade (45 minutes)

Healthy Zoo Healthy You

- Just like you, the animals need a healthy mind and body! Students will discover what the zoo does to keep their animals physically and mentally healthy.
- Define enrichment and explain with examples (animal toys)
- 2 live animals plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Home Sweet Home

- What is an ecosystem, biome and a habitat and how do they fit together? How can scientist tell when these places are in trouble? Can animals and plants really work together? Learn about this all while meeting some animal friends from different biomes.
- Book “Armadillos Sleep in Dugouts”
- 2 live animals- from different habitats plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

What’s For Dinner?

- Carnivores and herbivores and omnivores, oh my! Learn who hunts who all while exploring the fascinating world of predators and prey by interacting with animal skulls and live animals too!
- Learn differences between meat eaters/plant eaters etc.
- Bring animal skulls/teeth
- Book: What do you do When Something Wants to Eat you?”
- 2 live animals per program, at least one carnivore, one herbivore or one omnivore plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

When My Belly Roars

- Learn what animals need to survive and what they have that helps them survive?
- Everyone has to eat, even the animals! Practice building food chains and connecting them to make a food web. Learn how animals, like us, depend upon each other, plants, the sun and natural resources to survive.
- Book: “Hey Diddle Diddle a Food Chain Tale”
- Bring 2 live animals- carnivore, herbivore, omnivore, insectivore or decomposer plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Who Dung It?

- Everyone poops. It’s a fact of life. But what most people don’t know is that scientists use poop as a clue to learn more about animals. Come learn how animals do number 2 in this stinking fun program!
- Book: “Everyone Poops”
- Replica Scat
- 2 live animals per program – 1 herbivore, omnivore, carnivore plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Zookeeper Math

- See how zookeepers use math in their everyday programs (weigh, measure, food and animals)
- Bring scale- measuring tape, teaspoons, measuring cup
- Book “What’s New at the Zoo?”
- 2 live animals per program plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

K-6th Grade (45 minutes)

Blend, Bolt or Bite/ Amazing Animal Adaptations (any age group)

- Define adaptation- superpower
- Students will look at an animal and identify what adaptations this animals has to help it survive.
- Book: “What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?”
- 2 live animals plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Unearth a Story: Meet the Living Dinosaurs

- How do scientists learn about dinosaurs and ancient worlds when no one was there to see them? They read clues hidden in the Earth—just like reading a story!
- In this interactive, family-friendly program, meet live animals from the zoo and discover how reptiles, birds, and even insects alive today help scientists unearth stories from millions of years ago. Perfect for curious kids and families!
- 2 live animals plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

6th-8th grade/College and Adults (45 minutes)

Endangered Species

- Help your students develop an awareness of the threats to animals and their habitats. Learn about some possible solutions for protecting the world’s wildlife and some ways your students can help.
- Difference between threatened, endangered, least concern, etc.
- 2 live animals plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Is The Zoo Right For You?

- Do you want to work at a zoo? Students will discover the roles of zoos in conservation and the variety of careers that are available. Learn what it takes to work in a zoo while meeting some animal visitors.
- Zoo career matching game
- 2 live animals plus biofacts (fur, skulls, scales, etc.)

Community Events

The Erie Traveling Zoo can participate in community events including fairs, festivals, fundraisers, and recognition celebrations. The Erie Traveling Zoo can attend an event for up to three hours.

These events are a booth style event where people can come up and meet 1- 2 animals at a time. Animal may be switched out for another species during program time and be rotated beyond that. Guests may be able to pet the allowable animals.