

Presentations in the Erie Zoo Classroom

Available Year-Round (excluding weekdays April 24 through June 4, 2020)

(Limited Availability June 8- August 14, 2020)

The Erie Zoo is proud to provide you and your **class or group** with quality, hands-on programs that will bring these topics to life. Don't forget that we can often tailor a presentation to suit your group's needs and all programs are prepared for the age level attending. These 30-60 minute presentations are available to groups of 30 or fewer. The Proposed PA Academic Standards addressed by each program are available upon request.

Cost: \$40 for 30 minute program; \$50 for hour-long program for the first group and \$40 per additional group from the same school on the same day (for groups up to 30). \$70 for groups between 30 and 50 people. To schedule a classroom presentation, please call the Education Department at (814) 864-4091 or email kbowes@eriezoo.org.

Amazing Animal Adaptations: (K-8th) Take a look at the amazing adaptations of some of the Erie Zoo's education animals. From special defenses and limbs that get a creature moving to unique features that help them learn about the world around them- our animals are amazing!

Animal Coverings: (Pre-K-3rd) Touch the remarkable coverings that animals have. Discover the way a feather works, how many things fur and hair can do, what a turtle's shell is made of and why some animals wear armor. This is the perfect presentation for our younger visitors.

Animal Enrichment: (Pre-K-Adult) How do the zoo animals stay happy and active? With enriching activities such as play and exercise. Come and see the animals play with their toys and we will even watch one of them paint a picture!

Around the World: (2nd - Adult) Meet small animals that come from most of our World's continents and discover the adaptations that help them survive there.

Birds: (Pre-K-Adult) Focus on our feathered friends and discover the wonders of birds. Feathers, eggs, models of beaks and of course, live birds are part of the adventure.

Creepy Crawlers: (Pre-K-3rd) Get up close to some of the creatures that creep and crawl. Perhaps you'll discover they are pretty awesome after all.

Endangered Species: (5th -Adult) What factors place the Earth's wildlife at risk of extinction and what are zoos and other organizations doing about these problems? Artifacts, animal visitors and more will help clarify your questions about this worldwide problem.

Mammals: (Pre-K-Adult) Discover the characteristics of mammals through touchable biofacts, live mammals, and more.

Plants/Herbivores: (K-5th) Meet some of our smaller animals that eat only plants! We will also take a trip to the greenhouse.

Reptiles: (Pre-K-Adult) Snakes, lizards, turtles and alligators are potential visitors for this program. While we don't permit touching of our reptiles, we share plenty of touchable biofacts to keep things hands-on.

Zoo Moves: (Pre-K-2nd) Learn to move like the animals do. With animal visitors to help us see the ways they move, this is an active session for our younger guests.



Beyond the Books: Especially for Grades 6-12 and Post-Secondary Schools

*Limited to our **older students and guests** only, these programs are designed to provide more detailed information on our breeding programs, animal care and zoo careers for those who are seriously considering animal/zoo related careers.

*These programs may involve a **behind the scenes tour** if you are interested and your group is fewer than 30 people. Please note: We will not permit younger students, infants or toddlers to "tag-along" during the behind the scenes portion of these programs. Some behind-the-scenes areas involve rough terrain and high steps. Please inform us of any individuals with mobility issues prior to scheduling. While you may ask for a specific area to tour, we cannot guarantee that a specific behind-the-scenes area will be available on the day of your tour. We reserve the right to change tour areas as needed for the health, safety and security of our guests and our animal residents.

***Fees:** Behind the scenes tours are \$150 and are limited to groups of 15 or fewer. Groups of over 15 will be charged an additional fee of \$75 per group of 15 people.

*** Fees:** If you want one of the programs below **without the behind-the-scenes** component, the fees are \$50.00 for an hour-long program, \$100 for a 2 hour long program and \$40 for a half-hour long program. Program fees are in addition to admission fees and help to cover the additional staff required for your program.

Animal Care: (6th Grade - Adult) What does it take to care for some of the wild creatures that call the Erie Zoo home? From the special diets to health and hygiene procedures to behavioral enrichment, your group will discover some of the specialized tasks of our animal care staff in this behind the scenes tour. PA Standards for the Environment and Ecology: 4.7.7 A, B; 4.7.10 A, B; and 4.7.12 C.

Zoo Careers: (6th Grade - Adult) What kinds of jobs are available at the zoo? What special training is involved and how do people get started in zoo-related careers? From animal care to horticulture to visitor services and education, your students will be amazed at the variety of careers that are available at zoos and aquariums. PA Standards for Career Education and Work Academic Standards 13.1.8 A,B,C,D,E,F; 13.1.11 A,B,C,F; and 13.2.8 E.

The Role of Zoos in Conservation: (8th Grade - Adult) Discover the many ways modern zoos are facilitating the conservation of endangered species, habitats and inspiring others to conserve our wildlife and wild places. We will cover breeding programs and other conservation efforts. PA Standards for Environment and Ecology 4.7.12

Endangered Species, Enrichment and Zoo Careers: (College Students) Join us in this 2 hour class that focuses on Zoo Careers, Endangered Animals and also Animal Enrichment! You will meet some animal ambassadors, make an enrichment for a larger animal and then see it given to the animal, tour the kitchen area and learn about zoo careers!

Special Programs for Special Needs Groups

While we welcome and encourage persons with special needs to select and participate in any of our listed programming, we recognize that some groups may prefer or benefit from customized programming. Some suggested programs that we have found especially successful are listed below.

Animal Friends: Teaching gentle touching of the animals coupled with sensory, movement and language/ music experiences.

Animal Coverings: Discovering the visible and touchable differences between mammals, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates.

Animal Adaptations: Discovering some ways animals are specially made to suit their habitats.



Tips for Planning Programs for Special Needs Populations:

- Tell us in advance, the general functioning level of your group as well as your goals for the program.
- Inform us of any special adaptations your group may require or may be bringing (i.e. voice amplification, tactile needs or tactile defensiveness, special seating requirements, assistive devices.)
- Limit your group size to allow for the additional space that wheelchairs may require and also to suit the attention spans and patience level of your group members. Feel free to give us guidance in the instructional methods that are best suited for your group.

New PECS Books for Autistic or Non-Verbal Students -

Help your students play a role in the decision making, allow them to share their needs and communicate more effectively during your zoo visit by borrowing one or more of the PECS books from your Erie Zoo Gift Shop. All that is required is a valid ID for the responsible adult, and your promise to return it before you leave the zoo for the day. Fifteen books are available so that a class can be accommodated. Please help us spread the word about this wonderful resource to your families for their personal visits to their Erie Zoo.

