



VIRTUAL ZOO FIELD TRIPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Virtual Field Trip? Who is it intended for?

Virtual Field Trips are 30-minute experiences for Maryland school groups that combine video footage with live presentation to engage students with the Zoo and its inhabitants.

How much does a Virtual Field Trip cost?

Thanks to generous grant and foundation support, Virtual Field Trips are available for free to Maryland students participating with their classes during the regular school day.

How do I register for a Virtual Field Trip?

Registration for a Virtual Field Trip is required at least 72 hours in advance of the session date through the Zoo website. Visit marylandzoo.org/virtualfieldtrip to view available dates and to book your experience.

During the booking process, you will need to select your preferred date and start time. You will also need to provide the following information:

- Number of students age 2-11
- Number of students age 12-18
- Number of teachers
- Number of IEP-mandated 1:1 assistants

At the time of booking, you will also choose your preferred Virtual Field Trip topic.

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP FAQ

How does a Virtual Field Trip work? What platform will we use?

The Zoo typically hosts Virtual Field Trips using Zoom, but we know that not all groups are able to use this platform. If there is a platform that your group must use or is accustomed to using aside from Zoom, please let us know during registration and we will do our best to accommodate your needs. In most cases when Zoom is not possible, we recommend that you plan to host the session, and invite the Zoo's Virtual Field Trip Guides as participants to your established virtual meeting space.

Ideally, all students will have access to a camera and microphone (or the ability to use a chat feature) to ask their questions and interact with the Virtual Field Trip Guides, but we know that may not be possible for everyone. No matter your circumstances, we will be flexible and do our best to ensure the experience is engaging for everyone.

What do I need to provide for a Virtual Field Trip?

If your students are joining the Virtual Field Trip separately (i.e., from their own devices at home), it will be your responsibility to provide them with the date, time, link, and passcode (if applicable) for the Virtual Field Trip. We also ask that you assist in managing the chat feature (if activated), microphones, technical issues participants may encounter, etc. as much as possible to ensure a high quality experience for all the students.

If your class is together in one location, you will need a computer, internet connection, speakers, and projector/screen or a large monitor. We also recommend using a camera and microphone to allow your group a higher degree of interaction with their Virtual Field Trip Guides during the session.



When are Virtual Field Trips available?

Virtual Field Trips are offered on weekdays through the regular school year.

Check the Zoo website for the most up-to-date information on available topics and dates/times: marylandzoo.org/virtualfieldtrip

VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP FAQ

What happens after I have registered for a Virtual Field Trip?

Once you register for a specific time slot, you will receive an automatic email reply with your order number and confirmation of the details of your order.

About a week before your Virtual Field Trip, you will receive an email from the Zoo with more logistical information about your upcoming experience. The afternoon prior to your scheduled Virtual Field Trip, we will send you the Zoom meeting link and any last minute details you need for your program.

On the day of your program, you and your participants will be able to enter the Zoom meeting up to 15 minutes before the scheduled start time. If you are hosting the program, we ask that you allow us access approximately 15 minutes prior to the start time so we can make sure everything is working.

If you indicated at the time of booking that you need to use a platform other than Zoom, we will ask you to provide the link and any passcodes or other pertinent information required for us to access the meeting space at this time.

How do I change my program date or cancel my reservation?

If you need to change your scheduled date or cancel your reservation, please let us know at least 24 hours in advance of your session date.



Can I book more than one Virtual Field Trip for my students?

Because we have multiple Virtual Field Trip themes available, you are welcome to register your class for more than one Virtual Field Trip during the school year.

Each Virtual Field Trip session will need to be booked separately.

Check the Zoo website for the most up-to-date information on available topics and session dates.