

FIELD TRIP

Policies and Zoo Rules

To ensure the field trip experience is an enjoyable and safe one for all visitors, Zoo staff, and animals, we ask field trip group leaders to ensure compliance with the following Zoo rules and policies.



Field trip groups must comply with all Zoo rules in addition to specific policies for school groups.

CHAPERONE POLICIES

Chaperone participation is critical to ensuring that all students have a safe and enjoyable educational experience.

A school group must bring a minimum of one (1) adult chaperone for every eight (8) students. These required adults are admitted free.

Adults beyond the 8:1 ratio are considered “extra adults.” These extra adults must purchase their own tickets for Zoo admission through the online timed ticketing system: <https://www.marylandzoo.org/visit/tickets-hours/>

Chaperones must directly supervise their assigned students at ALL times, regardless of the age of the students. Failure to comply with this policy may result in removal from the Zoo.

Siblings and other children not part of the class officially booked for the field trip do not count in the calculation of the free chaperone ratio.

Teachers are not automatically free, though most groups choose to allot their free chaperones slots to teachers first.

Check out the Learning Resources section of the Zoo website for a printable *Chaperone Handout* for each of your chaperones.

FIELD TRIP POLICIES

TICKETS

- The Zoo is currently using a timed ticketing system for entry. Every visitor—including those on field trips—must have a ticket booked in advance for a designated day and entry time.
- The grant-funded Free Field Trip program includes tickets for students and chaperones in the ratio of 8:1 (one free adult for every eight students). Adults beyond that ratio will need to purchase their Zoo admission separately online through the Zoo's timed ticketing system.
- Every group member must have a ticket to enter. Tickets will be scanned at the gate upon entry.
- Field trip tickets cannot be purchased at the Main Gate. They must be booked in advance through the Visitor Services team.
- The number of tickets available each day and entry time is limited. We cannot guarantee that capacity will be available for additional parents/guardians.
- If you need to change your field trip date, please contact the Visitor Services team at fieldtrips@marylandzoo.org. Please note that tickets purchased by parents/guardians will NOT automatically be rescheduled with your group.

PAYMENT POLICIES

- Parents/guardians who are *not* part of the 8:1 ratio for free chaperones will need to purchase their tickets online in advance.
- Tickets are non-refundable. We strongly recommend parents/guardians do not purchase their tickets until you have received a confirmation for your group's date and entry time.



ITEMS NOT PERMITTED

The following items are not permitted in the Zoo:

- Glass bottles
- Pets
- Bicycles
- Skateboards
- Balloons
- Frisbees
- Squirt guns
- Balls
- Whistles
- Alcohol
- Radios

FIELD TRIP POLICIES

GENERAL ZOO RULES

- **Every visitor over age 2 must have a mask to enter the Zoo.** Masks must be worn at all times.
- Respect the animals. Please do not yell or throw things at the animals, bang on their enclosures, or otherwise harass them. Just like us, animals need rest and privacy. Animals may have access to off-exhibit areas during the day and may not always be visible.
- Do not feed the animals. All the Zoo's animals are on special diets, and outside food and other objects can be harmful for them.
- Do not feed the local wildlife. It changes their natural behaviors and can harm them.
- Refrain from running, shouting, pushing, or using offensive language. **Observe all posted signs and remain on paths.**
- Smoking (including e-cigarettes) and use of other tobacco products are prohibited in the Zoo. Smoking is permitted only in the designated smoking area outside Zoo gates.
- Stay on marked pathways and respect all barriers.
- ALL students visiting as part of a school group must be **directly supervised** by adult chaperones regardless of children's ages.
- Please help keep the Zoo clean by placing litter in the proper trash/recycling receptacles.
- Do not attempt to retrieve any items that fall into an exhibit. Zoo staff will retrieve it for you.
- If you become separated from a student in your group, please find a Zoo staff member or volunteer who will contact Zoo Security.
- No items from animals (e.g., feathers) may be taken from the Zoo.

Thank you for helping us ensure that all guests have a safe and enjoyable visit to the Zoo!



FIRST AID AT THE ZOO

First aid is provided by the Zoo's Security team.

If you require assistance, please ask a Zoo staff member or volunteer to notify Security for you.

Zoo Security officers can also assist if you become separated from a student in your group.