

# SAY I DO AT THE ZOO

© Shane at Appletree Weddings

## Looking for a unique space to hold your wedding?

Take a look at our Mansion House Porch or our Lakeside Pavilion. The Zoo's historic Mansion House (circa 1801) is a truly elegant setting for special occasions! Large windows on all sides of the stately, wrap-around porch overlooking Druid Hill Park. Our Lakeside Pavilion, nestled among trees at the edge of Boat Lake, provides a secluded and idyllic setting for wedding ceremonies.

### WEDDINGS AT THE ZOO

#### The Mansion House Porch

**Capacity:** 250 for stand-up receptions, 180 for seated events with dance area.

**Availability:** Day and Evening rentals until midnight.

**Rental fee:** (up to four hours)

\$3,000\* on Fridays

\$3,800\* on Saturdays

\$3,400\* on Sundays

\$2,600\* on Mondays through Thursdays

\*Additional hours are available for an additional fee.

Rental fees directly support the running of the Zoo. Thank you for considering us as a venue!

### ELOPEMENT PACKAGE

Want to have a small, intimate wedding ceremony? Our Elopement Package makes it easy as we take care of all of the details for you! Ask for more information.

#### Lakeside Pavilion

**Capacity:** 180 for ceremonies

**Availability:** April through October, before dark.

**Ceremony fee:** \$1,200 for one hour if rented in conjunction with Mansion House Porch.

Holding your ceremony here would entail adding an additional hour either at the Lakeside Pavilion or the Mansion House.



**ANIMAL AMBASSADORS:** Our Animal Ambassador program makes your event unique and talked about! You can have various animals appear during the cocktail hour at your reception. We have about 20 different animals from penguins and small birds to small mammals and snakes. The price starts at \$200 for up to a 30 minute per animal. We can't guarantee your selection as so much depends upon how the selected ambassador is feeling that day. We always make sure that the wedding couple has time with the Animal Ambassadors for photographs.

**CATERERS:** There are ten caterers on our 2020-2021 Approved Caterers list with a broad range of pricing. These caterers have all catered events at the Zoo and have the necessary knowledge to cater at our historical Mansion House. Select one of them to cater your wedding.

**PHOTOGRAPHY OPTIONS:** *Option 1* is for the couple that wants to go the traditional route and not see each other before the ceremony. You would arrive up to 75 minutes before your ceremony start time with bridal party and groom/groomsmen photos taken separately near the Mansion House. Couple portraits, and family and wedding party photos would be taken during the cocktail hour. *Option 2* is for the couple who want to take all of their wedding photos before the ceremony so that they can enjoy their cocktail hour with their guests. You would arrive up to 2 hours before your ceremony start time for bridal party shots followed by couple portraits. Both options include an escorted golf cart ride to various places within the Zoo; including the bronze lions, historic Victorian enclosures in Main Valley, the elephant building, the flamingo exhibit, Penguin Coast and Zoo carousel. Weather and time-of-day conditional.

**CEREMONY REHEARSAL:** The ceremony rehearsal is included in rental fees. Rehearsals are generally held on Thursdays for Friday weddings and on Fridays for Saturday and Sunday weddings. The latest time for holding a rehearsal is 3 pm. A different rehearsal time may be scheduled based on availability. Additional fees may apply.

*Rain Plan:* Reserve the Lakeside Pavilion for your ceremony in conjunction with your reception at the Mansion House, and have the reassurance that a rain plan is in place! If the weather isn't cooperating on the day of your wedding, we can move the ceremony to the Mansion House. No additional charges would apply.

**RENTAL EQUIPMENT:** Tables and chairs for Mansion House rentals are provided for up to 180 guests. Chairs for ceremony at Lakeside Pavilion are available for an additional fee.

**FINAL WALK-THROUGHS:** These are conducted before 4 p.m. during the work week approximately 4 weeks before your wedding date. At the final walk-through, we meet with the caterer to finalize the logistics and floor plan. You provide a vendor list complete with names, contact information and approximate time of arrival. The Zoo contacts each of your vendors to provide directions, load-in and load-out instructions and parking information as well as confirm time of arrival.

**ZOO STAFF:** Also included in the rental fees are three staff: a Zoo on-site coordinator to oversee the event and to work with the caterer to ensure seamlessness. A security guard to assist with parking and to be on-hand throughout your event, and lastly a maintenance person to provide resolution in the case of blown fuses, fire alarms etc. We also assist with the wedding ceremony, coordinating with your DJ/musicians and queuing the processional.

**Need inspiration? Check out our Pinterest board, "I Do" at Maryland Zoo, at [pinterest.com/marylandzoo](https://www.pinterest.com/marylandzoo)**



For more information, please contact the Group Sales Department at 443-552-5279 or email [rentals@marylandzoo.org](mailto:rentals@marylandzoo.org).