Dear Teacher,

Thank you for choosing to bring your students to visit us. We want you to have the best experience possible while you are here.

Studies show that the more familiar students are with their field trip destination, the more prepared they will be to learn during their visit. We hope that you will be able to take the time to share this presentation with your students before they visit the Zoo.

Please note that the species on display may change as our staff biologists do their best to meet the needs of our animals. Therefore, the species highlighted in this presentation may vary slightly on the day of your visit.

Enjoy your walk with the animals!

*Cathleen McConnell*

*Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium*

*Conservation Engagement Team*
Let’s go to the Zoo!
Hi! My name is Suki and I am an Asian Elephant. I am here to help you get ready for your trip to the Zoo!

I’ll walk with you as you find out what you might see when you visit us.

Are you ready to get started?
When you get to the Zoo

Your teacher will give you a ticket. You will put that ticket under a red light so it can be read by a computer.

When the light turns green you can walk through the turnstile.
When you get to the Zoo

You will probably see lots of peacocks roaming around.

Please don't feed or chase these birds. They like to be left alone.
Know your way around!

There are many big maps around the Zoo to help you find your way to different animals, restrooms, eating and animal exhibit areas.

The adult in your group should have a map for all of you to share.
Habitats at the Zoo

The land around the Pacific Ocean is called the Pacific Rim. This is where most of our animals are from.

Southeast Asian Forests
North Pacific Ocean
South Pacific Ocean
Arctic Tundra
Rocky Shores

Animals in the Kids’ Zone are from all over the world!
The **North Pacific Aquarium** has been transformed into a behind the scenes area for our aquarium staff and is closed to visitors. **However, restrooms on the lower level will remain open.**

The **South Pacific Aquarium** is where you will find our warm water fish, reef shark exhibit and stingray touch tank. This aquarium is still open, with plans for renovations in the near future.

The new **Pacific Seas Aquarium** is officially open and home to hammerhead sharks, sea turtles, eagle rays, wolf-eels, leopard sharks and an amazing **Tidal Touch Zone**. Lots of your old friends from the North Pacific Aquarium moved over, including the giant Pacific octopus, rockfish and jellies.
South Pacific Aquarium

Come see our warm water fish, sharks and stingrays!
South Pacific Aquarium
Stingray Cove

- Atlantic Stingray
- Yellow Stingray
- Epaulette Shark
- Whitespotted Bamboo Shark

Note: Our sharks and rays take a break in the middle of the day, check the daily presentations schedule for times.

This is how you gently touch the sharks and rays.

- Horseshoe crab
Pacific Seas Aquarium

20 minutes is the minimum recommended time to tour this Aquarium. If possible, allow your students 10-15 minutes in the Tidal Touch Zone (about halfway through the exhibits).
Pacific Seas Aquarium
Tidal Touch Zone

Here you can meet animals that live in Puget Sound and along the Pacific coast. Touch gently with one finger!

- Sea Anemone
- Sea Cucumber
- Sea Urchin
- Limpet
- Hermit Crab
- Bat Sea Star
SE Asian Forest Sanctuary

- Lowland Anoa
- Indian Crested Porcupine
- Small-Clawed Otter
- Malayan Tapir
- Siamang
- Clouded Leopard
- Asian Elephant
- Sumatran Tiger

Most of the animals in this part of the zoo rotate exhibits everyday, so you won’t find all of them. See which ones you can spot on your visit!

Hey, that’s me!
Budgie Buddies!

These small birds are colorful and fun to watch. The best way to see a budgie up close is to be quiet and move slowly.

Visit our budgie flock for free or buy a seed stick for $2, or $1.50 for members.

Note to teachers: This exhibit is seasonal. Please check our website to check see if the budgies will be accessible during your field trip.
Magellanic Penguins live on the rocky shores of South America.
The Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater offers the animals a chance to show off their stuff!

Note to teachers: Full scripted presentations occur in the late spring and summer. However, these animals make scheduled appearances on stage all year! Visit our daily presentations page to confirm times.
Rocky Shores

- Horned Puffin
- Sea Otter
- Pacific Walrus
- California Sea Lion
- Harbor Seal
- Tufted Puffin
- Common Murre
- Sea Otter
- Harbor Seal

Watch how these animals move around in their marine environment AND on land!

For information about why sea lion “Chinook” is branded visit: http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/seallions/ There is also an information panel at the underwater viewing area.
Some polar bears come out on the Arctic tundra during the summer when the sea ice is melted.
Did you know that red wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world? There were eight puppies born here in 2019. It was very exciting!
Learn about animal families, homes and communities!
Kids' Zone “Magical Movement”

- Parma Wallaby
- Poison Dart Frog
- Prehensile-tailed Skink
- Giant Tailless Whipscorpion
- New Caledonian giant gecko
- Prehensile-tailed Skink
- Poison Dart Frog
- Giant Tailless Whipscorpion
- New Caledonian giant gecko

This area of the Zoo can get really busy. Kids, make sure to keep your adult with you!

- Green Tree Python
- Corn Snake
- Red-Bellied Piranha

Note to teachers: We recommend saving this area until last since students will want to stay and play on the climbing structures.
If you would like to feed the goats it costs 50¢ for a handful of goat pellets. Please don’t feed them any other food. They are on a special diet.

Note to teachers: This exhibit is seasonal. Please check our website to see if goats will be accessible during your field trip.

Be sure to wash your hands after you pet or feed the animals!
Plants

There are also plants from all over the world at the Zoo. We have different kinds of cactus and bamboo, and lots of flowers that bees and butterflies like!

Please don’t pick our leaves or flowers. Leave them for everyone to see!
What to do if you get lost:

HELPFUL TIP: Take a good look at your adult chaperone. Remember what color hair they have, what color their clothes are. This will make it easier for us to help you find them!

Find a person in a blue or green Zoo shirt. These people work at the Zoo, and they will help you find your group.

You can also ask me questions about the animals.
Can you find the 6 restrooms?
If you have time and it’s okay with your teacher, check out these other attractions:

Plaza Café

Gift Shop

Carousel

The carousel costs $2.00 to ride!
On your ZOO day please.....

Keep an eye on your CHAPERONE! They would be lost without you!

Have FUN and see some amazing animals! I'll be there!

Be RESPECTFUL to the animals and other visitors....this means no yelling or throwing.

Stay SAFE...this means no running especially on slippery paths and stairs.

Help us keep the Zoo clean. GRAY is for garbage. BLUE is for recycling (cans and bottles only!). The café has a GREEN bin for compost.