

Zoo Field Trip Tips

Please read this checklist to prepare for your trip.

- Read your confirmation email to make sure the contact information, as well as the visit date, is correct.
- Email reserve@pdza.org to make any corrections or changes.
- Arrange for an adequate number of chaperones (must be at least 18 years old), **1 chaperone for every 5 students is required, regardless of grade level.**
 - One teacher will be admitted for free for every classroom on a school group field trip.
 - All other adult chaperones will pay the Field Trip admission fee.
 - Memberships are not accepted for any child visiting the zoo on a scheduled school field trip.
- Plan a **Free Teacher Planning Visit** for yourself. Once you have scheduled your visit and have received your confirmation information, you are invited to explore our exhibits for FREE one-time prior to your scheduled visit. Just bring your **trip confirmation information** and a valid teacher identification card to the front gate to get your free admission ticket. *This offer is not valid the day of your field trip.*

PARKING & ENTRANCE

Buses: Buses must park and unload passengers in the upper parking lots. Please direct your students and chaperones to use painted crosswalks when walking down to the front gates. Parking is free.

How do we enter the Zoo? Before your group reaches the admissions gates, hand each student a "Student" ticket and each chaperone a "Chaperone" ticket. Each individual will scan their ticket at the turnstile. Tickets are bar coded. When the scanner reads the code, the light (at adult eye level) will turn green. On especially busy school visit days (May and June) Zoo volunteers may be available to assist students and chaperones with this process.

EATING LUNCH AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

- You may either pack your own lunches or purchase meals at the zoo concession stands and café. Be prepared for lines and wait times for purchased food.
- There are large, unsecured lockers behind the Gift Shop to store your group's sack lunches. These are available on a first come, first served basis.
- Be prepared for an outdoor dining experience.
 - Unless otherwise marked you and your group are welcome to eat lunch in any lawn area.
 - The Pacific Rim Plaza (between Gift Shop and Plaza Café)
 - The Red Wolf Picnic Area
 - Outside any restaurant/concessions areas: Plaza Café (open year-round), Pearl Street Grill or Rocky Shores Café (open seasonally).
 - **Please help us keep our exhibit areas open for viewing by not having your group eat at or in close proximity to the animal exhibits.**

We encourage visitors to pack a ZERO-WASTE LUNCH. Here's how!

- Include items – like bananas & apples – that come in their own natural wrappers.
- Bring a reusable, refillable water bottle instead of disposable drink packages.
- Avoid throw-away bags, plastic wrap, Styrofoam and single-use napkins & cups. Look for reusable containers and utensils.
- Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium strives to incorporate green practices in our work and play, please join us by remembering to **recycle**.

Please remind your group that the animals on the Zoo grounds have special diets so we do not allow feeding the animals, including the peacocks, free-ranging birds & squirrels!

CHAPERONES: THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL ZOO VISIT!

Chaperone policies apply to ALL school groups Preschool-Grade 12.

Chaperones provide safety and help guide your students' educational experiences at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium!

- **Every school group visiting Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium must have at least one adult per 5 students, regardless of the students' ages.**
- All Chaperones are charged the Field Trip rate.
- Please provide each of your chaperones with a copy of the ***Code of Conduct and Disruptive Behavior Policy***.
- Chaperones should wear a name tag that identifies them as a chaperone for your school group.
- **Chaperones, including teachers, must:**
 - Stay with their assigned group **AT ALL TIMES**, regardless of students' ages. This includes the Gift Shop. Students are not allowed to "check in" intermittently with teachers and chaperones while at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. This policy ensures the safety of students, other visitors and the animals.

BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AT THE ZOO

Please make sure all students and adult chaperones know that appropriate behavior is expected of all students visiting Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, regardless of their age. These expectations will help ensure the safety and enjoyment of your students, chaperones, other zoo guests, and the animals.

Stay with chaperones at all times.

Students are not allowed to leave their assigned chaperones while at the zoo. If students need to use the restroom, please make sure a peer goes with the student. Ensure that both return to the chaperone and the group outside the restroom.

Respect the Animals

- Shouting at animals and tapping or banging on exhibit windows or openings is disruptive and is not permitted.
- **Observe animals with eyes and ears only.** Do not touch any animals, unless they are in an area that allows contact.
- Please do not feed the animals except in designated areas. Human food can cause illness to animals and feeding animals may cause harm or illness to humans.

Respect other zoo visitors.

- Walking and speaking softly ensures all guests will enjoy their visit.
- Stay on the visitor paths and on the public side of all guardrails.
- All visitors must remain clothed and shoes must be worn at all times while on zoo grounds.
- Make sure all trash makes it into a trash can or recycling container.

Leave certain things at home:

- Skateboards, scooters, bicycles, shoes with wheels
- Toys, Frisbees, Balls
- Costumes

Smoking is not permitted on zoo grounds.

