

Krazy Kritters Overnight

at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

Chaperone Guide and FAQs

Thank you for your participation in the overnight programs at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Please distribute a copy of this form to the parents of all participants.

Arrival/Departure Rules: Due to safety and security reasons, scheduled late arrivals and early departures are NOT permitted. However, we can make an exception in the morning for after 7:30am.

Who should attend?

- *Children who belong to the youth group, school class or scouting troop and siblings who fall in grades 1 through 6 (best suited for grades 1 through 4)
- * We recommend a ratio of one to four: chaperones to children
- * All participants must wear a name tag, provided by the trip organizer.

What time do we arrive and where do we check in?

- *ALL participants must arrive between 6:00-6:15pm. For safety reasons, later arrivals will not be accepted.
- *If you are running late, please call 412-818-7296 and leave a message.
- *Parking is in the main zoo parking lot off of Butler Street. A security guard or zoo instructor will meet your group by the front gates.
- *PACK LIGHTLY! You will be carrying your belongings to the Worlds of Discovery building in Kids Kingdom. Feel free to bring a wagon, if you'd like!

What should we bring?

- *Pajamas, slippers or socks, a pillow and sleeping bag, toiletries, hand towel, washcloth, a change of clothing for the next day, camera, and a flashlight. You may bring an air mattress or foam pad if desired.
- *Please leave your valuables at home, as the zoo cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items.
- *There is a large waterfall running at all times in the Worlds of Discovery building. If you fear that this will interfere with your ability to sleep, then we suggest you pack ear plugs.

Who will be with us for our program?

- *There will be two Education Specialists conducting your program. One will leave at bedtime and one will remain with your group overnight.
- *One Zookeeper will be conducting your behind-the-scenes tour.
- *A Zoo Security Guard is on duty at all times.

What should we wear?

- *Casual, comfortable clothing with weather appropriate outerwear and suitable shoes for walking outdoors. We will be going outside regardless of the weather conditions. Please note that Heelys are not permitted.
- *The temperature in the Worlds of Discovery building fluctuates. Please be prepared for cool and warm temperatures.

What is expected of chaperones?

- *Your trip organizer should complete the enclosed "Overnight Emergency Contact Form" and give it to your instructor upon arrival. Please list actual participants ONLY.
- *Chaperones are expected to keep groups organized and disciplined with respectful, appropriate behavior. Throwing food, littering, and other destructive behavior is unacceptable.
- *Chaperones should assist in the distribution of food and craft supplies, stay with the groups at all times and participate in scheduled activities. Alcoholic beverages and the use of tobacco products are prohibited on zoo grounds. We do not have a designated smoking area within the Zoo.

Is there food available?

- *Please be sure that your group eats a full dinner before arriving at the zoo.
- *Pizza, snacks, and soda will be provided at approximately 9:00pm.
- *Breakfast will include cereal, granola or breakfast bars, milk, juice, coffee and tea.
- *You may bring additional snacks if desired, but please NO drinks or baked goods with icing.

Where will we be sleeping?

- *In the Worlds of Discovery Building on a commercially carpeted floor. For your safety, the doors to the building will be locked overnight.

When will the program end?

- *Between 8:45-9:00am.
- *You will be asked to return your belongings to your car at the end of the program.
- *You will be provided with a GROUP ADMISSION PASS that is valid for ONLY for that day's visit, regardless of weather. The pass is for the entire group and you must re-enter the zoo as a group.

How can family members contact us in the event of an emergency?

- *1st - call the security booth @ 412-365-2515
- *2nd - call the overnight teacher @ 412-818-7296
- *3rd - call the Security Guard cell @ 412-292-2292

Agenda **

- 6:00-6:15pm..... Groups Arrive
- 6:15-7:15..... Icebreaker/Lesson
- 7:15-8:30Tour/Scavenger Hunt
- 8:30-9:00.....Live animal visit
- 9:00-9:30.....Pizza and snacks
- 9:30-10:00.....Scavenger Hunt
- 10:00-10:45.....Craft
- 10:45-11:00..... Get ready for bed
- 11:00pm.....Lights out
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- 7:00 am..... Wake-up
- 7:00-7:30Breakfast
- 7:30-8:15Pack Belongings
- 8:15-8:45Animal Visit
- 9:00am.....Goodbye

*** Times are approximate and the agenda is subject to change without notice.*

While we feel confident that your group members will conduct themselves with respectful behavior towards the animals, staff, and other guests of the zoo, the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium reserves the right to deny groups or individuals with inappropriate behavior the right to tour behind-the-scenes. In extreme cases, groups or individuals could be asked to leave the premises.

If you have any questions, please email learn@pittsburghzoo.org or call 412-365-2528.

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