

ZSI: Zoo Scene Investigations 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 4 through 6)
- * We recommend a ratio of one to four: chaperones to children
- * All participants must wear a name tag. Your trip organizer should provide you with this.

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 412-818-7668 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 Education Complex. 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.

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.
- *The temperature in the Education Complex 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 9:30pm.
- *Breakfast will include cereal, granola or breakfast bars, milk, juice, and coffee.
- *You may bring additional snacks if desired, but please NO drinks or baked goods with frosting.

Where will we be sleeping?

- *In the Education Complex 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 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 @ 412-818-7668
- *3rd - call the Security Guard cell @ 412-292-2292

Agenda **

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

Revised July, 2014