



Field Trip Information 2024

2131 North Main St. Racine, WI 53402

www.racinezoo.org

(262) 636-9580 | education@racinezoo.org

Who can book a field trip?

Field trip rates are reserved for schools or affiliated school groups. They are also for groups that have 20 or more people. If your group size is less than 20, you are welcome to pay the \$100.00 minimum.

How do I book a field trip?

Field trip booking sheets are available online at www.racinezoo.org/field-trips. In order to receive the field trip discount, groups must submit a completed booking sheet at least 2 weeks prior to arriving. Completed forms should be emailed, dropped off, faxed, or mailed. An invoice will be emailed to you within 7 days after the submission of your registration form; **please do not submit payment until you receive an invoice**. Please contact us if you have not received a confirmation one week after you submitted your form.

How much does a field trip cost?

Students and chaperones are \$3.00 per person from November through March and \$5.00 per person from April through October. You receive 1 free chaperone for every 8 paid participants. All additional chaperones are charged the group rate. If you would like to include an educational animal program during your visit, the price per person is \$8 year-round.

How do I pay for my group's field trip?

Payment is due at the entrance to the Zoo on the day of your trip. You may also call us to pay ahead of time to avoid delays at the Zoo entrance. You may pay by check, cash, or credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover). Please note that a processing fee is applied to all card transactions. If paying by check, please clearly note the name and date of your field trip.

What if I don't know exactly how many people will be attending my field trip?

You are welcome to submit a booking sheet with an estimated headcount. Final headcounts are due **1 week prior** to your arrival – no exceptions. If we do not have a final count and your numbers change, additional guests will be charged regular Zoo admission. No refunds will be provided if your group size decreases less than 1 week prior to your trip.



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What do we do when we arrive?

Please check-in at the admissions window when you arrive to let them know you are here for a field trip and show them your confirmation paperwork. The admissions staff will count each student and chaperone as they walk through the gate. If you are going to be late, please contact us as soon as possible at (262) 636-9580.

Where do we park?

There is a free Zoo parking lot one block west of the Zoo on Wisconsin Avenue. If you are traveling by bus, the bus may temporarily park in front of the Zoo on Main Street only for the drop off or pick up of passengers.

What if weather conditions are poor the day of our field trip?

Please check the weather forecast before you depart for the Racine Zoo. The Zoo is an outdoor facility and there are no refunds once you have entered. If you need to cancel your reservation, please contact us to reschedule.

Can we bring our own lunches?

Bagged lunches are permitted in the Zoo. *No coolers or storage areas are available for lunches during your visit.* You may have your hand stamped when exiting the Zoo to retrieve your lunches from the bus to re-enter. Lunches are also available for pre-order from our Jungle Grill. Please email us if you would like to see the menu of options.

Where can we eat lunch at the Zoo?

Picnic tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis and are located throughout the Zoo. The Zoo also has many open grassy areas where groups may sit to eat. A picnic area may be reserved for an extra fee of \$50 for one hour. Please contact us for rental information and reservations.

Can we also attend an educational animal program during our visit?

Educational animal programs are a great way to enhance learning at the Zoo! Our programs last approximately 30-45 minutes and include a selection of live ambassador animals. Descriptions of our available programming for field trips can be found at www.racinezoo.org/animal-programs. The inclusion of an animal program with your visit brings the cost to \$8.00 per person year-round. You receive 1 free chaperone for every 8 paid participants.



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Do you have any self-guided activities or scavenger hunts?

The Racine Zoo's Self-guided Activity Kits are a great way to enhance your group's learning experience on a budget. These activities allow teachers to create their own experience for their students to best match their learning goals. Please contact us to request a self-guided activity kit.

Can we ride the Zoo Choo Express train during our visit?

Zoo Choo Express tickets are available for \$3.00 per person. One paid adult must accompany each car with children under the age of 13. The train runs seasonally and weather-permitting. *Groups must let the Zoo know in advance if they are interested in the Zoo Choo Express.*

Where can we get souvenirs from our visit?

The Zootique gift shop is located at the Zoo's entrance. We require a 1:8 ratio of adults to students in the gift shop at all times. *Groups must let the Zoo know in advance if they are interested in visiting the Zootique.*

OTHER FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the zoo rules?

We ask that all people at our Zoo keep in mind that they are guests in our resident animals' homes. While the following is a list of some specific expectations, it is by no means exhaustive.

- Chaperones should be with students at all times and managing their behavior.
- Please do not feed any animal, including the native wildlife that find refuge on our campus. All of our animal residents eat food specifically formulated for them; anything you feed them could make them severely ill.
- Please do not throw any objects into animals' habitats. Even seemingly harmless objects can be harmful or fatal if ingested.
- Please do not yell at, scream at, tease, or harass any animal. This is disrespectful and causes undue stress to the animal.
- Stay behind all guard rails and barriers. They are there to protect you and the animals. Do not lean over rails to take photos.
- Please do not use flash photography. It can be very disturbing for many animals.
- You may take photos or videos of the animals and campus for personal use, but permission is required for all photos or video filmed for commercial purposes and must be obtained in advance from the Zoo's Administration Office at 200 Goold St. Racine WI 53402.
- Please wear proper attire, including shirts and shoes, when you visit.



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- Roller skates or roller blades, skateboards, scooters, Heelies, bicycles, and similar items are not permitted at the Racine Zoo.
- For the safety of our animal residents, footballs, basketballs, baseballs, soccer balls, and similar items are not permitted on Zoo grounds.
- Only service animals are allowed on Zoo grounds. Please leave your pets at home or with a trusted caretaker.
- Per Racine Municipal Ordinance 70-79, no persons except for police officers and other law enforcement officers are permitted to carry any firearm onto the Zoo campus.
- Trash receptacles and recycling bins throughout the Zoo so that you can leave the grounds the way you found them and help keep the Lake Michigan shoreline clean.

Failure to follow these rules may result in your group being asked to leave. Please be sure to share these rules with all participants and chaperones prior to your visit.

How many chaperones will our group need?

The Zoo suggests a 1:8 ratio of adults to students. If your group requires extra chaperones or direct aides for learners with special needs, please contact the Conservation Education Department.

If we are interested in a program, how much will it cost and how do we reserve a spot?

Education programs are a great way to enhance your group's learning experience at the Zoo. Our programs are 30-45 minutes and include a selection of live ambassador animals. Programs are very popular and book quickly, so they must be scheduled in advance. Programs can be booked using the field trip booking sheet.

Programs are \$8.00/person with a minimum payment of \$160.00. Admission to the Zoo is included in the program price.

What if our group is running late and we have program scheduled?

Due to the popularity of our programs, we may not be able to accommodate your group if you arrive late. Please make every effort to call the Zoo at (262) 636-9189 if your group will be arriving late for your program. We will do our best to accommodate late arrivals, but we reserve the right to cancel or adjust program length depending on the availability of staff. No refund will be given to late arrivals.

Should we wear name tags?

We strongly encourage each child to be identified with their name, school name, teacher name, and school phone number.



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What if it is raining the day of our visit?

Weather can be unpredictable in Wisconsin so we will do our best to accommodate accordingly. As long as your group has not entered the Zoo, you are welcome to reschedule. If you have entered the Zoo, we are unable to give any refunds. If you have scheduled a program, we will do our best to find an alternate date but cannot guarantee availability. To reschedule a program or field trip, please contact the Conservation Education Department staff at (262) 636- 9580 or education@racinezoo.org.

Where are your restrooms located?

Restrooms are conveniently located at the main entrance, downstairs in the Vanishing Kingdom Historic Main Building, at the Jungle Grill, and near the Watering Hole. Changing tables with a maximum weight capacity of 50 lbs. are available in all restrooms.