



## **Birthday Party Important Information & Frequently Asked Questions**

Racine Zoo

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### **How do I schedule a party?**

Birthday parties are very popular here at the Zoo and can be scheduled any day of the week, including weekends. On-campus birthday parties are scheduled for a four-hour time slot based on availability. This includes 1 hour for setup, 2 hours for the actual party, and 1 hour to cleanup. Please email [education@racinezoo.org](mailto:education@racinezoo.org) or call 262-636-9580 for scheduling. The Zoo requires at least two weeks' notice when scheduling parties.

### **How are the locations set up and what do I need to bring?**

Depending on the number of guests attending the party, you will have tables and chairs or picnic tables (depending on location) set up for your guests. There will also be two six-foot tables in your location for food, cake and/or gifts. The Zoo provides tables and chairs, space rental and cleanup. It is up to you to bring any decorations (**for animal safety and to keep Lake Michigan healthy, balloons, confetti, and piñatas are not allowed**), tablecloths, food, drinks, and tableware. We do allow food and non-alcoholic beverages to be brought into the Zoo; however, we do not have refrigerators or microwaves available so please plan accordingly.

### **Where will I go when I arrive at the Zoo?**

When you arrive, all guests must check in at the admissions window and let them know the name of the birthday party you will be hosting/attending. Party hosts and guests may not bypass the admissions line. Admissions staff will know which parties are expected on any given day. They will direct you and your guests to your reserved location.

### **What does a party at the Zoo consist of?**

Birthday parties at the Racine Zoo can be held in any of our event locations. Your booking includes four hours at your chosen event location, as well as general admission for the allotted number of guests. You have the option to add a live animal program, story time, animal-themed crafts, goodie bags, space heaters, grill rental, extra hours, and additional guests to customize the party to fit your needs.

### **How many animals come to a birthday party with ambassador animals, and can I select the animals?**

Ambassador animals can be added to any party or event rental at the Zoo for a small fee. We bring up to four animals per party at a rate of \$25.00 per animal. A small selection of the ambassador animals can be touched; however, for the health and safety of both the animals and guests we recommend that children younger than six years old do not touch the animals without parental guidance. Once your party is booked, we will send you a list of our current ambassador animals. You may request animals for your party but we cannot guarantee any animal's availability. Animal requests must be submitted no later than two weeks prior to your party.

### **Cost and payment options**

Each event location at the Zoo has a base rental price. See the Event Rental Locations guide below or <https://racinezoo.org/wild-birthday-parties> for site rental options. Additional party time can be added for \$50/hour. Live ambassador animals can be part of any event at the Zoo for an additional \$25 per animal.

Racine Zoo members receive a 10% discount off parties. Each event location includes general admission for an allotted number of guests; however, additional guests may be added for \$8.00/person. You will receive an invoice once your party is booked. A 50% non-refundable deposit is required one week before the party to confirm your reservation. The remaining balance is due when you arrive the day of your party. You will pay the Zoo staff when you arrive at your party's location. We accept cash, check (made out to Racine Zoo), or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express). Please note if paying with cash, we do not carry change.

### **Final guest count and party extras**

Final guest count and any party extras are due one week before your party (no exceptions). Please plan your RSVP dates on your invitations accordingly.

### **Invitation suggestions**

In order to make the most out of your WILD party, you may want to keep in mind these suggestions when creating your invitations: guest count is due one week prior to your party; spaces are reserved for four hours total (1 hour to setup, 2 hours for the actual party, and 1 hour for cleanup); admission is only included for your direct party guests, not for their entire family.

### **Can you come to my house instead of us coming to the Zoo?**

Yes, have the Zoo come to you! We offer offsite birthday party programs that include a 30-45-minute program with four animals. Pricing is \$200.00 for 1-30 guests and \$220.00 for 31+ guests, plus mileage. Please call the Conservation Education Department at 262-636-9580 for more information. Goodie bags, animal crafts, and story time may also be added to offsite parties for an additional fee.

**50% non-refundable deposit is due for ALL parties 1 week prior to the party.**

"Guest counts" include those hosting the party and ALL guests of all ages.

All prices include general Zoo admission for guests up to listed limit.

## Birthday Party Event Locations

Birthday Site Rental	Number of Guests Included	Site Rental Fee	Cost Per Additional Guest
Safari Tent	24	\$300	\$8
Jungle Junction	24	\$300	\$8
Meerkat Manor	40	\$350	\$8
Kiwanis Education Center	30	\$325	N/A (30 is max. capacity)
Bear Backyard	60	\$600	\$8
North Train Tract	45	\$400	\$8
South Train Tract	45	\$400	\$8
Helen Ireland Wildlife Theater	50	\$450	\$8
Racine Rotary West Safari Base Camp	50	\$600	\$8
African Savanna & Racine Rotary West Safari Base Camp ("Land of the Giants")	100	\$950	\$8
Kiwanis Memorial Amphitheater	100	\$900	\$8

### Jungle Junction – Gazebo

A great location for smaller groups looking for a covered meeting place for a picnic party, the Jungle Junction gazebo is the perfect selection. The gazebo is located between the Zoo's entrance and Vanishing Kingdom historic building.

- Price: \$300
- Guests included: 24
- Additional guests may be added for \$8/person



### **Safari Tent**

This beautiful covered space is perfect for a kid's birthday and sits right next to the Zoo's largest playground. Surrounded on three sides by tall plants, and sitting on a slightly elevated deck, this space is cozy, private, and close to some of the largest animals that call the Zoo home.

- Price: \$300
- Guests included: 24 (but can fit 30-40 people comfortably)
- Additional guests may be added for \$8/person



### **Kiwanis Education Center ("KEC")**

Located above the main floor of the historic Vanishing Kingdom, this indoor space is perfect for a smaller group. With air conditioning and quick access to the main building's restroom, this location provides a nice level of privacy for your party.

- Price: \$325
- Guests included: 30 (fire code maximum)
- **NO additional guests may be added to this location.**



### **Meerkat Manor (Felle Pavilion)**

For smaller groups looking for a great “home base” for a picnic party, the area near the penguins and meerkats could be a perfect fit! With a modern shade structure and located right in the heart of the Zoo, it is close to the Walkabout Creek exhibit and children’s playground.

- Price: \$350
- Guests included: 40
- Additional guests may be added for \$8/person



### **Racine Rotary West Safari Base Camp Pavilion**

Our most popular event location, the Pavilion, can host formal fundraisers or backyard barbeques. Located adjacent to the Play Zoo playground, with a beautiful view of Lake Michigan, the pavilion is a covered structure with garage door-style walls that can be lowered to combat inclement weather or wind.

- Price: \$600
- Guests included: 50
- Additional guests may be added for \$8/person
- **Groups of 150 or more will be charged a dumpster rental fee of \$150**

