



Off-campus Birthday Party Important Information & Frequently Asked Questions

Racine Zoo Conservation Education Department
2131 North Main Street
Racine, WI 53402
262-636-9580 | education@racinezoo.org

Make your birthday party unforgettable with animals from the Racine Zoo! Our experienced educators will bring three ambassador animal friends to your party for a fun and educational animal experience. From the scaly and slithery to the furry and four-legged, your animal guests are sure to interest everyone!

What does a party with the Zoo consist of?

An off-campus birthday party includes an engaging and educational visit from three ambassador animals accompanied by our Education Specialists. These birthday programs range in length from 30-45 minutes, depending on questions and the particular group dynamic. You also have the option to add a story time, a craft, and goodie bags to customize the party to fit your needs.

How do I schedule a party?

Birthday parties can be booked by submitting a completed Off-campus Birthday Booking Sheet (available on the "Wild Birthday Parties" page of the Racine Zoo website) to the Conservation Education Department at least two weeks in advance of your preferred party date. All parties are booked on a first-come, first-served basis based upon the order in which we receive completed booking sheets. Please note that due to the high volume of interest in birthday parties, we are unable to hold "rain dates."

How do I submit a booking sheet?

You may submit a completed booking sheet to the email provided above, through snail mail to the address above, or by dropping it off at the main entrance of the Zoo. You may also call us at the phone number above for assistance in completing and submitting the booking sheet.

When can I schedule a party?

Off-campus birthday parties may be scheduled for any day of the week during daytime and early evening hours.

Where can I hold the party?

The weather in Wisconsin can be unpredictable, so our birthday animal programs can be inside or outside depending on weather and "real-feel" temperatures. If the weather is expected to be poor, please plan to have the animal program take place indoors or in an otherwise temperature-controlled space. Please make sure to let us know where you will be having the party so we can plan accordingly.

How should I prepare the party space for the animals?

Please be prepared for us to arrive 10-20 minutes prior to the scheduled start time to set up. We require enough space to transport animals on a wheeled cart and set up a six-foot table. During the animal program, all food will need to be put away or covered and guests may not be actively eating per USDA regulations. Please also be sure to put your pets away somewhere safe while our animals are visiting your party. Let us know ahead of time if we will need to use stairs to attend your party so we may plan accordingly.

How many animals come to an off-campus birthday party, and can I select the animals?

We bring three animals to off-campus birthdays. 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.



If you have any further questions, please contact the Conservation Education Department at education@racinezoo.org or call 262-636-9580.



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Options and pricing

Off-campus birthday parties are priced based upon the number of guests. The term “guests” encompasses *everyone of all ages* who will be attending the party – not just children.

- Birthday with 30 or fewer guests: \$200
- Birthday with 30 or more guests: \$220

All off-campus birthdays also incur a mileage fee based on distance from the Zoo.

- If your party is within 10 miles of the Zoo, the mileage fee is \$10.
- If your party is within 11-20 miles of the Zoo, the mileage fee is \$20.
- If your party is within 21-30 miles of the Zoo, the mileage fee is \$30.
- If your party is within 31-40 miles of the Zoo, the mileage fee is \$40.
- If your party is greater than 40 miles away from the Zoo, please contact the Conservation Education Department to see if we are able to accommodate your party needs.

You may also include the following add-ons with your party:

- Zoo-themed craft: \$15 (includes 15 crafts)
- Zoo-themed goodie bags: \$5/bag
- Zoo-themed story time: \$10

Payment information and options

You will receive an invoice containing full pricing information for your party after it is booked. **Please do not submit payment for your party before receiving your invoice.**

A 50% non-refundable deposit is required one week before the party to confirm your reservation. The remaining balance is due when we arrive on the day of your party before the animal program starts.

We accept the following payment methods:

- Cash*
- Check (made out to “Racine Zoo” with the name and date of your party clearly marked)
- Credit/debit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express)**

**If paying with cash, please note we do not carry change.*

***All card transactions incur a processing fee.*

Final guest count and party add-ons

A final guest headcount and any party add-ons are due one week before your party (no exceptions). Please plan your RSVP dates on your invitations accordingly.

Birthday animal programs can be held inside or outside depending on weather conditions and “real-feel” temperatures. Please let us know where you will be having the party so we can plan accordingly.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Conservation Education Department at education@racinezoo.org or call 262-636-9580.