



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 two hour time slot based on availability. Please call 262-636-9580 or email education@racinezoo.org for scheduling. The Zoo requires at least two week's 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 one six-foot table 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, balloons and confetti 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, check in at the admissions window and let them know the name of the person whose birthday party you will be attending. Admissions staff will know which parties are expected on any given day. The admissions staff will direct you and your guests to your reserved location. Make sure each guest checks in at the admissions window so that staff can direct them to the correct 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 two hours at your chosen event location as well as general admission for the allotted number of guests. You have the option to add live animals, games, activities, goodie bags, and additional guests to customize the party to fit your needs.

How many animals come to a birthday party with animal ambassadors, and can I select the animals?

Animal ambassadors can be added to any party or event rental at the Zoo for a small fee. We bring four live animals to the party based on your suggestions from our animal ambassador list. Some 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. You may suggest animals for your party but we cannot guarantee any animal's availability. We recommend you suggest 7 animals you'd enjoy having at your party, and Zoo staff will do their best to select animals from your preferred list. Animal suggestions need to be submitted one week 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 or www.racinezoo.org for site rental options. Live animal ambassadors can be part of any event at the Zoo for an additional \$25 fee. 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. There is a 50% non-refundable deposit required to confirm your reservation due one week before the party. You will receive an invoice once your party is booked. The remaining balance is due when you arrive on 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).

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 might want to keep in mind these suggestions when creating your invitations: guest count is due one week prior to your party; it is very important that everyone arrives on time so that you can take advantage of your full two-hour time slot; admission is only included for your 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 live animal presentation with four animals. Pricing is \$160.00 for 1-30 guests and \$180.00 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 can also be added to offsite parties for an additional fee.

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

All “guest” counts include those facilitating the party

All prices include admission for guests up to listed limit

Birthday Party Rental Locations

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: \$200
- Guests Included: up to 24
- Additional guests may be added for \$8 per person



Kiwanis Education Center

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

- Price: \$250
 - Guests Included: up to 30 (fire code maximum)
- *No additional guests may be added to this location.**



Meerkat Manor

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’s close to the Walkabout Creek exhibit and children’s playground.

- Price: \$250
- Guests Included: up to 32
- Additional guests may be added for \$8 per 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 “walls” that can be selectively unfurled to combat inclement weather or wind.

- Price: \$500
- Guests Included: up to 60
- Additional guests may be added for \$8 per person

***Groups of 150 or more will be charged a dumpster rental fee of \$150.**

