Going to the PNC Festival of Lights at the Cincinnati Zoo
I am going to the PNC Festival of Lights at the Cincinnati Zoo! I will ride with my family or group to the Zoo.

We can park under the solar panels in the main parking lot. If the main parking lot is full, we may need to park in a different parking lot.
Once we park, we will head toward the Zoo entrance.
My family or group can decide if we will use the stairs, escalator, or elevator. I may need to wait if we use the elevator.
Once we’ve gone up, we will go across the bridge that crosses over the street. The bridge will have pretty lights on it. The bridge is safe and it will take me to the Zoo!

If I feel scared going across the bridge, I can do lots of things to help me feel better. I can hold someone’s hand, take deep breaths, and tell myself that the bridge is safe and I am okay.
After crossing the bridge, we can buy tickets at the ticket building to the right. We might have to wait in line to buy our tickets and that is okay.
After we buy our tickets, we go to the entrance gate. There might be a lot of people waiting to go into the Festival of Lights. I will try to wait patiently. When it is my turn, the Zoo staff will scan our tickets and we can go into the Festival of Lights!
I will follow the Zoo rules so that I am safe and the animals are safe. I will stay on the paths to keep me, the animals, and the plants safe.
It will probably be cold at the Festival of Lights, so I will need to make sure that I dress warmly.
Since it will be dark at the Festival of Lights, I will really try to stay with my family or group. If I get away from my group, I can ask a Zoo staff member to help me. Zoo staff members wear jackets with the Cincinnati Zoo logo and name badge.
I will try to use a quiet voice so that I don’t bother the animals and the other people at the Zoo.
If it is crowded, I might have to wait for my turn to see an animal or do an activity and that is okay.
At the Festival of Lights, there are lots of bright lights that blink, move, and flash. If these kinds of lights bother me, maybe we can go to the Festival of Lights early before it gets really dark, so the lights don’t seem so bright.
Some places at the Zoo (like the elephant house, the flamingos, the penguins, the bears, and the Night Hunters) have strong smells. If the smell is too strong for me, I can cover my nose or go to a less smelly area.
Some places at the zoo can be loud. The music at the Festival of Lights can be loud. The train whistle can sound loud. The restaurant can also be noisy if it is crowded. If a place is too loud for me, I can use headphones or go to a quieter area.
We can get a Festival of Lights map. Using the map, I can plan which attractions I want to see. I might not have time to see all of the attractions and some attractions might not be open when I’m at the Zoo. That’s okay. Maybe I can see them the next time I come to the Zoo.
I might be able to see Mrs. Claus in the Zoo Shop or Frosty by the big tree.
I can try to find 5 small fairies hidden in FairyLand.
I can Meet-a-Creature at Manatee Springs or the Education Center. There might be a few animals that I can touch, like a lizard, a snake, or a goat. I will follow the rules when I touch an animal so that I am safe and the animal is safe.
I can see Fiona’s Winter Wonders, a black light puppet show. The show is in the outdoor Wings of Wonder Theater. It lasts about 25 minutes. I will try to stay in my seat so the people behind me can see. At the end of the show, I can see how the puppets were moving! I can check the zoo website for show times.
I might be able to ride the carousel at the Zoo. I might need to wait in line at the carousel. If waiting in the line is too hard for me, my family can ask about a Rides Access Pass, so we can wait outside the line for our turn.
I can go through the Rainbow Tunnel!
In Reindeer Village I can see real reindeer and look through the windows of the gingerbread houses to find a pretend mouse hiding inside!
I might be able to see Santa at the North Pole near the train. There might be a long line to see Santa. I will try to wait my turn. I will try to keep my body to myself and be patient. If the line is too long for Santa, I might want to see Mrs. Claus instead.
I might be able to ride the train at the Zoo. I might have to wait in line for my turn. That is okay. I might be excited when it is my turn and proud that I could wait! My family can also ask about the Rides Access Pass if we need help with waiting.
I might be able to see a short movie at the 4D Theater. We need to buy a ticket if we are going to go to the 4D Theater. I can learn more about the 4D effects inside, and my group can decide if we would like to see the short movie.
I might have to wait in line for my turn. That is okay. I might be excited when it is my turn and proud that I could wait!
I might see characters from the movie Frozen! There might be a line to see the Frozen characters. That’s okay. I can wait for my turn.
I can visit the Holiday Post Office where I can write a letter to Santa. Nearby is the Hand-Crafted Gift Shop. I might not be able to buy something at the gift shop, and that is okay.
If we want to eat at the Zoo, we can bring food from home or buy food at a Zoo restaurant. The Base Camp Café has burgers, sandwiches, pizza, soup, and salads. Other Zoo restaurants include LaRosa’s, Skyline, and Wild Burger. Not all the restaurants are always open, so we can check the zoo website for hours.
There are restrooms throughout the Zoo for when I need a bathroom break. Most of the restrooms have automatic flush toilets and air hand dryers. If it is too loud, I can use headphones or cover my ears. Some family restrooms have hand flush toilets and paper towels.
If I’m tired from all the walking at the Festival of Lights, I can rest on a bench until I’m ready to see more. If I need to warm up, some buildings are open, including Manatee Springs, World of the Insect, and Night Hunters.
If I need to take a break from the action at the Festival of Lights, I can ask my adult to take me to a quiet place. The Peace Garden (near Wings of the World) and the Passenger Pigeon Memorial (between World of the Insect and Gorilla World) are quiet places.
There are Zoo gift shops. If my group agrees, we can look in the gift shops. I may not be able to buy something at the gift shop every time I visit. That is okay.
When it is time to leave the Zoo, I will walk with my family or group out the exit gate and cross the bridge. My group will decide if we will take the stairs, escalator, or elevator down to the parking lot. We will walk to the car.
I might feel proud when I follow the rules and have a good time at the PNC Festival of Lights!

I might want to come back to the PNC Festival of Lights again!