



Living Classroom Education Access Fund (LCEAF)

Providing Access and Opportunity for Future Generations

The Beginning: The Living Classroom Education Access Fund (LCEAF) was launched in November 2012 to provide access to the Zoo and its nationally recognized education programming to under-resourced schools (public, private and parochial) in our service area. This was in response to the exacerbation of already-disproportionate achievement gaps in our schools worsened by the economic downturn that began in 2008. At a time when schools and teachers were under increased pressure to meet requirements for 21st Century learning, they also, ironically, had fewer resources to take students on the very kinds of enriching field trips that could amplify their classroom experience.

Impact Thus Far: After the first four years of program implementation, the LCEAF has been successful beyond our most hopeful projections, bringing over 65,000 students and their teachers to the Zoo for a free, fun, standards-aligned daytime or overnight field trip.

Free Field Trips and Zoo on the Move Programs

Living Classroom Education Access Fund Financial Assistance is available to under-resourced schools in our target areas. To receive Financial Assistance, teachers must apply and agree to the below terms.

1. School serves student population of at least 60% or more free and reduced lunch students. Teacher will need to attach a [statement of financial](#) need to their application. This can be either a signed statement from your school principal or a source stating your status.
2. Schools must be from [Ohio or the Greater Tri-State Area](#) to qualify.
3. For Field Trips: a detailed lesson plan explaining the activities your students will complete during your field trip (can be [Zoo Self-Guided Activities](#)) including objectives and standards being met.
4. Agree to participate in a Zoo post-assessment with your students.

Example Statement of Financial Need



Cincinnati Zoo School

3400 Vine Street

Cincinnati, OHIO 45220

August 1, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to verify that for the 2019-20 school year, Cincinnati Zoo School has 75% of the student population that receives free or reduced lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact us at 513-559-7730.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Darwin." The signature is written in black ink.

Charles Darwin

Principal



Eligible Counties

INDIANA

- Dearborn
- Franklin
- Ohio

KENTUCKY

- Boone
- Bracken

- Campbell
- Gallatin
- Grant
- Kenton
- Pendleton

OHIO

- All Ohio counties are eligible.

Example of Field Trip Lesson Plan

Cincinnati Zoo Field Trip Lesson Plan

1st Grade Cincinnati Zoo School, Teachers: Tu Youyou and Kiara Nirghin

Science State Standards – Grade 1

LS Living things have basic needs, which are met by obtaining materials from the physical environment.

- Living things require energy, water and a particular range of temperatures in their environments.
- Plants get energy from sunlight. Animals get energy from plants and other animals.
- Living things acquire resources from the living and nonliving components of the environment.

Objectives: Observe a variety of living things in the wild or the classroom and ask questions about how they survive. How do they get food? Where do they live? What do they use for shelter?

Activities the Students Will Complete at the Zoo

1. Students will observe animals living in their natural habitat, taking note of the type of habitat it lives in, what kinds of foods it eats, and how it gets its food.
2. Students will attend a keeper chat to find out more about at least 2 animals, including where they live, what they eat, how they find their food.

Activities the Students Will Complete When They Return To School

1. Students will use observation notes to write a summary about the animals they observed and whether the animal is an herbivore, carnivore, or omnivore.
2. Student will create basic food chains for one of the animals they observed, based on the information they obtained.