ZOO Education Programs

For more information or to register for programs
http://cincinnatizoo.org/education/
Join us in this four-week series as we learn to count. Practice counting animals, better yet toes, tails, and legs! We will meet animals face to face in the classroom, as well as in the Zoo when we go on our hike! Watch your child grow as they count with their classmates, all while sharing and working together.

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September*

Jump like a lemur, swing like an elephant’s trunk, and groove to the beat with some neat counting tunes! Join us in this four-week series as we mimic animal music and movement, while finding our voices and working on our counting skills! We will meet some wild dancing friends face to face in the classroom and out in the Zoo.

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October*

*Note: One adult must accompany children attending Toddler series.*
Pre-K

Critter Coverings
Join us for this four-week series as we identify and discover animal coverings! We will touch fur, feathers, and scales, and explore with sight, touch, and sound. We will meet animals face to face in the classroom and out in the Zoo.

Dates: Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September*

Critter Classification
What makes a mammal a mammal, or a bird a bird? Join us for this four-week series as we investigate and classify animals based on similarities! We will meet animals face to face in the classroom and out in the Zoo. With the same instructor and group each week we will communicate and share with our classmates, working together to classify our Zoo animals!

Dates: Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October*

*Note: One adult must accompany children attending Pre-K series.
Are you ready to become an animal investigator? Great! In this series, we will learn to identify the various body parts that animals have and check out all of the similarities and differences we can find. From claws to toes to a short or long nose, we'll next explore how these body parts help each animal to survive.

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September

We know that animals can look very different on the outside, but what about the inside? In this class, we will learn about bones, teeth, and digestive habits! Sometimes gross but always great, these things all help an animal to survive and can help investigators, like us, tell how animals that are similar can be grouped together.

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October
**We’ve Got You Covered!**

What is one of the easiest ways to distinguish one class of animals from another? Its physical coverings! Become a mini scientist as we develop our observation and data collection skills to take a closer look at plants, skin, scales, and fur!

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**My Wild Family Tree**

Domestic vs. Wild—what is the difference?! Join us as we investigate our own domestic and wild Zoo residents to figure out how these two are truly wild ancestors! From your companion cat to the African cheetah, or the dog at your house to the African painted dog, these family members definitely have their similarities and differences. We will meet animals up close and out on our Zoo hike, practicing our observation and inquiry skills!

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October
Animal Oddballs

You probably know that wolves and foxes are related, and that cheetahs and lions share a branch of the family tree, but what about those animal oddballs out there? Who is a sloth’s closest relative? What about hippos and aye-ayes? Some animal relatives are easy to figure out, but others are a bit tricky. From classroom animal encounters to hikes and hands-on activities, this four-week series will help us look closer at the wild, wonderful, and wacky creatures out there and trace their family trees to their, sometimes surprising, roots.

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Winged Wonders

Flight is a pretty amazing adaptation. Pair that with the fact that it appears in three, independent animal classes, and you have one amazing example of convergent evolution. In this program, we will encounter animals in the classroom and on grounds that help us observe and explore the structures and behaviors that help animals fly, compare the ways that animals accomplish it, and use what we learn plus our own imaginations to create some new, flying species of our own.

Dates: Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October
**Spotlight on Birds**

From the smallest hummingbird to the largest ostrich, there is a lot of diversity among birds. In this class, we will explore the traits that unite all birds as well as those that divide them into subgroups. Through it all, hands-on exploration, inquiry, animal visitors and Zoo hikes will bring our investigations to life as this program session shines a spotlight on our feathered friends.

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September

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**Spotlight on Reptiles**

What do an alligator, a rattlesnake, a Komodo dragon, and a tortoise have in common? They are all reptiles! There are so many different kinds of reptiles with so many different characteristics that it is hard to believe they are related! During this program session, we will learn to look closer at the traits of these scaly friends and notice some of their similarities and their differences as we learn how scientists classify (and argue about classifying) them. Hikes, animal encounters, and investigations will make this experience both educational and fun! SSSSSSee you there!

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October
7th and 8th Grade

Mammals In-Depth

Mammals are an amazing, diverse, and well adapted group of animals. Using scientific tools, observations at habitats and in the classroom, and getting hands-on with bio-facts such as skulls, we’ll investigate what makes an animal a mammal. Then, we will take a closer look at two different scientific orders of mammals, learning about what makes them so special and unique. This series will culminate in participants getting a chance to demonstrate what they have learned by sharing it with their families and the public!

*Dates: Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September*

Birds In-Depth

Which animal class includes members that can both fly in the air and underwater? Birds of course! From the biggest ostrich to the tiniest hummingbird, we will explore what it takes to be a member of Class Aves. We will use our skills as scientific investigators to observe, compare, and classify the members of this group of animals. Then, with hikes, skull examinations, and some classroom animals’ visits, we’ll take an in-depth look at three specific scientific orders of birds to understand what makes them so unique. Like the month before, this series will culminate in an opportunity for participants to show what they have learned by sharing it with their family and the public.

*Dates: Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October*
Imagine spending an evening at the Zoo on your own private tour! Your 2 hour adventure will begin with drinks at Hops Beer Garden overlooking our new Roo Valley habitat. Then you will hop on a cart and head out on a choose-your-own-adventure tour with an experienced Zoo Educator to learn all about our Zoo and its animals!

You and your group will book out an entire cart. The cost is $600. The carts can accommodate groups up to 6 attendees. This program is great for either adults or for groups with ages 12+. Children ages 12-18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Do you want to bring something wild to your next event? Wild Chats are hosted live by a Zoo Educator and include pre-recorded interviews with staff from around the Zoo. We provide programs to schools, birthday parties, scout meetings, nursing homes, libraries, community events, festivals, and more!
Join us out at the farm to hike, hear, pluck, and taste our way through the history and folklore of the largest native fruit in America—the pawpaw! Ohio’s state fruit is smooth like a mango with a tropical taste. From hikes in the pawpaw patch to tasting homemade pawpaw ice cream, bring the family out for a fun morning full of activity and storytelling! Then, we will help you prepare seeds for winter so that you can grow your own pawpaw tree next spring!

This program takes place at our Bowyer Farm in Mason, Ohio.
Plant Trials Day Symposium

Dates: August 26, 2021 from 8am–6pm, Frisch’s Theater

Our highly acclaimed and always popular Plant Trials Day Symposium returns live and in-person on August 26th. Legendary plant collector, gardener, and nursery owner, Dan Hinckley will give two talks! Additionally, we are featuring Paul Westervelt and Jared Barnes. They are young and popular horticultural speakers who have both won the “40 Under 40” award from Greenhouse Product News and the Perennial Plant Association’s “Young Professional of the Year” award. Another speaker, likely one who is very popular and one of the best from our past programs, TBA. Stay tuned!

Native Plant Symposium

Dates: November 20, 2021 from 8am–6pm, Frisch’s Theater

The Native Plant Symposium is always a sellout. Speakers for this year’s symposium include renowned garden writer, Thomas Christopher and Sam Hoadley from Mt. Cuba Center. More to be announced.