



GOING TO PNC FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS AT THE CINCINNATI ZOO

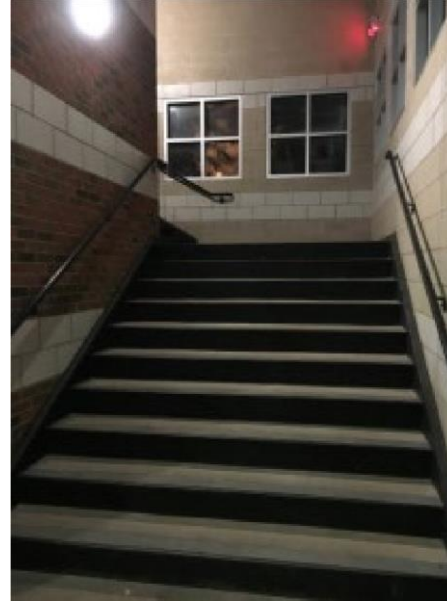
SOCIAL NARRATIVE



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. We might have to walk a long way from our car to get inside the Zoo.



If we park in the main lot, we will walk toward the Zoo entrance and take the stairs, escalator or elevator. 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 walk across the bridge that crosses over the street. The bridge is safe, and it will take me to the Zoo! The tunnel over the bridge has moving colorful lights.

If I feel scared walking 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 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!



RESPECT THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS.

I will follow the Zoo rules so that I am safe and the animals are safe. I will walk only on the paths to keep me, the animals, and the plants safe.



It might be cold when I go to visit, so I will need to wear warm clothes.



I will 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 shirts with the Cincinnati Zoo logo and name badge. Zoo staff might be wearing masks due to COVID-19.



Masks are optional, so I might see some people wearing masks at the Zoo. For the health and safety of the animals, masks are required for some tours.



Some indoor habitats or other animal encounters at the Zoo are not open during the Winter and will not be a choice when I visit. That's ok!



I will try to use a quiet voice so that I don't scare the animals.



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, Birds of the World, 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. On Gibbon Island, the gibbons sometimes make a very loud call. 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.



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 can go through the Rainbow Tunnel!



I might be able to see Mr. and Mrs. Frosty, a penguin, a reindeer and other fun friends. I also might see singing elves!



I can try to find 5 Fiona Fairies hidden in Fiona's Fairyland.



I might be able to see Santa at the North Pole in the shelters near the carousel, or Mrs. Claus. There might be a long line to see Santa or Mrs. Claus. I will try to wait my turn. I will try to keep my body to myself and be patient.



If we want to eat at the Zoo, we can bring food from home or buy food at a Zoo restaurant. Some of the Zoo restaurants include LaRosa's, Skyline, Hops, the Coop, 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.

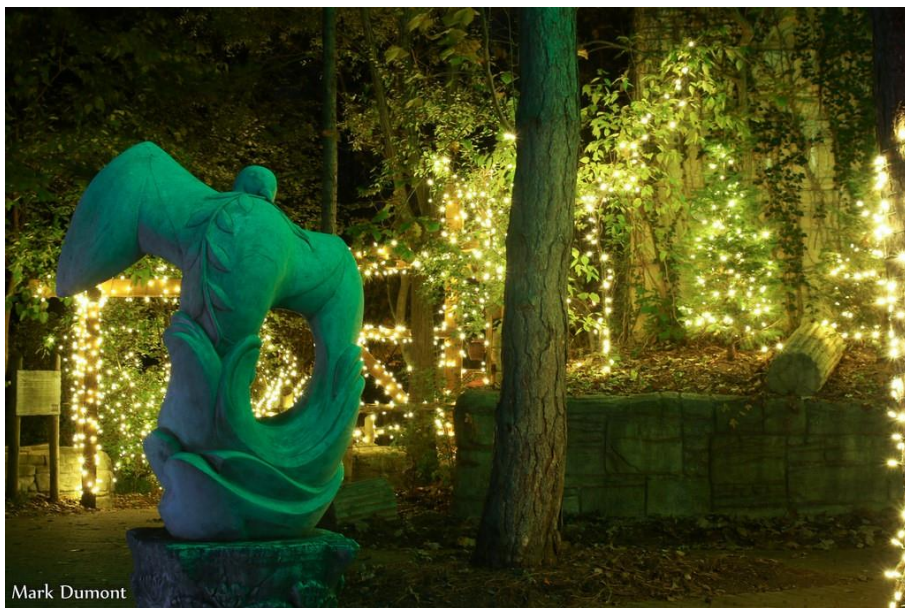
If it is too loud, I can find a Sensory-Friendly bathroom that has a manual flush toilet and paper hand towels. These bathrooms are in Vine Street Village, LaRosa's, picnic shelters and Mai Thai's Marketplace.



If I'm tired from all the walking at the Zoo, I can rest on a bench until I'm ready to see more animals or lights.



If I am feeling overwhelmed and need a quiet place to calm down, I can ask my adult to take me to a Calming Room. There is one near the Zoo's main entrance and one near Mai Thai's Marketplace.



If I need to take a break from the action at the Zoo, I can ask my adult to take me to a quiet place. The Peace Garden (near Birds 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 of group out the exit gate and cross the bridge. We can take the escalator or elevator down to the parking lot. We will walk to the car.



Everyone is so proud of me 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 another day!