For more information or to register for programs
http://cincinnatizoo.org/education/
**Pre-K**

1-2-3, Dance with Me!
Join us in this four-week series as we learn to count. Practice counting animals, better yet toes, tails, and legs! We will count them 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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

*Note: One adult must accompany children attending Pre-K series. Pre-K series is for children ages 3–4 years old and 5 year olds who are not in Kindergarten.

**Toddler series**

Count with Me!
Join us in this four-week series as we learn to count. Practice counting animals, better yet toes, tails, and legs! We will meet them 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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

*Note: One adult must accompany children attending Toddler series. Toddler series is for children 18–36 months old. *Check our website for more details on dates and pricing!**

**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 see some wild dancing friends face to face in the classroom and out in the Zoo.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.
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.

Domestic vs. Wild—what’s 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!

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

Animal Investigators

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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

The Inside Scoop

We know that animals can look very different on the outside, but what about on 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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October–November.

*Note: Kindergarten Zoo Troopers and older attend without an adult. This is a drop-off style program.

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!

We’ve Got You Covered!

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

Going Wild

Domestic vs. Wild—what’s 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!

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October–November.

Kindergarten

1st and 2nd Grade

We know that animals can look very different on the outside, but what about on 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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October–November.

*Note: Kindergarten Zoo Troopers and older attend without an adult. This is a drop-off style program.

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!

We’ve Got You Covered!

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

Going Wild

Domestic vs. Wild—what’s 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!

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October–November.
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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October–November.

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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

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! See you there!

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October–November.
Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October–November.

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!

Mammals in-Depth

Birds in-Depth

7th and 8th Grade

Mammals 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.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in September–October.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for 4 weeks in October–November.

NEW! Junior Zoologist Zoo Troop

Junior Zoologist Zoo Troop (JZZT) is an opportunity for current 7th-8th grade Zoo Troopers to deepen their understanding and relationship with our local ecosystems through hands on field studies, local stewardship and conservation initiatives, mentorship from local ecologists and field biologists, leadership opportunities, and so much more! Join us for an exciting fall relaunch of the JZZT program exploring Ohio’s native wildlife and wild places while growing our outdoor skills and having lots of fun along the way.

Are you interested in becoming a Junior Zoologist?

Click here for more details!

Save the Date!

Fall JZZT Kick-off October 14, 2023.
More details to come!
Family Programs

Pawpaw Palooza
DATE: September 10
TIME: 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.
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!

Note: This program will take place at Bowyer Farm, located at 2210 Mason Montgomery Road, Mason, OH 45040. This is an outdoor program, dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes to walk approximately 0.5-1.0 miles on uneven terrain. If you are sensitive to mosquitoes, use of an eco-friendly insect repellent is suggested.

Creepy Crawly Critters: Family Night Hike
DATES: September 30, October 14, October 21, November 4
TIME: 6:00 p.m.– 7:30 p.m.
Fall is for all things spooky, but we want to show you how some animals aren’t as scary as they seem! Participate in fun, educational activities, take a short zoo hike with one of our education instructors, and meet some of our animal ambassadors up-close and personal! All while learning about the cute creepy crawly critters that call the Cincinnati Zoo home.

Note: One adult must register per group. For all ages! All participants must register, except children under 2 years old who are free.
Florida is full of diverse habitats that are bursting with thousands of animal species, from walking-on-water basilisks to slow-and-steady manatees. We’ll dive headfirst into the astonishing biodiversity of these southern habitats, centering around the lives of our resident manatees who are a part of our rehabilitation program with Florida conservation groups. We’ll get behind-the-scenes to see how we care for them, and then learn more about the amazing world we live in. When the night ends, you’ll doze off at our Manatee Springs building with manatees floating by your bed.

On the African plains, it’s survival of the fittest! Discover the adaptations predators have to hunt and how their prey have evolved to give them a fighting chance. We’ll observe our incredible African predator and prey species, investigating what it takes for these animals to survive. You’ll go behind-the-scenes to our African animal care staff areas to see how we bring expert care and attention to these extraordinary species. Then after the fun, curl up in our private education classrooms overlooking our rainforest.

The gates are shut, the lights are down, and everyone has gone home for the day. It’s time to discover the Zoo after dark! Go behind closed doors and get up-close with animal encounters, hikes, and games. After a night of adventure, tuck into your sleeping bag overlooking the animals and then wake up the next morning to breakfast and a special animal experience. The fun doesn’t have to stop there as next day admission is included and you can explore the Zoo on your own!

**Pick your date:** Wednesday–Saturday, January–November (Twiga April–October only). All programs 7:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m. Perfect for any group ages 5 years and up.

**Sleep with the Manatees**

Florida is full of diverse habitats that are bursting with thousands of animal species, from walking-on-water basilisks to slow-and-steady manatees. We’ll dive headfirst into the astonishing biodiversity of these southern habitats, centering around the lives of our resident manatees who are a part of our rehabilitation program with Florida conservation groups. We’ll get behind-the-scenes to see how we care for them, and then learn more about the amazing world we live in. When the night ends, you’ll doze off at our Manatee Springs building with manatees floating by your bed.

**African Predator Prowl**

On the African plains, it’s survival of the fittest! Discover the adaptations predators have to hunt and how their prey have evolved to give them a fighting chance. We’ll observe our incredible African predator and prey species, investigating what it takes for these animals to survive. You’ll go behind-the-scenes to our African animal care staff areas to see how we bring expert care and attention to these extraordinary species. Then after the fun, curl up in our private education classrooms overlooking our rainforest.

**Twiga Tented Safari**

A truly one-of-a-kind experience, our Twiga Tented Safari will take you across the African grasslands. We’ll traverse through Africa, listening to tales of innovation for living harmoniously with wildlife, such as how a flashlight can shield you against lions, or why a puppy raised with goats can save cheetahs. On our safari, we will get behind-the-scenes of Hippo Cove and uncover secrets of our world-famous bloat. We’ll finish up our night at our twiga tents, gathered round a roaring campfire roasting s’mores. Then, this unique adventure ends with a relaxing night in our safari tents on cozy cots and waking up to breakfast overlooking Giraffe Ridge.

After Hours Programs
DATES: You pick the date for your exclusive cart tour: Tuesdays through Saturdays, April–September, 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Imagine spending an evening at the Zoo, zipping around to your favorite destinations. This two-hour private tour will take you and five of your friends all around the Zoo choose-your-own-adventure style. Led by an experienced Zoo Educator, your group will learn all about the Zoo, its amazing animals, conservation projects, and more! Come ready to ask questions and get the inside scoop. We even get a special behind-the-scenes look at one of our favorite zoo spots as well!

Note: Available for groups of up to 6 attendees, ages 12 years and above. Children ages 12–18 must be accompanied by an adult.

African Sundowner: Adult 21+ Overnight Adventure

DATES: August 12, September 8, October 6
TIME: 6:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m.

A truly one-of-a-kind experience, the African Sundowner makes a great date night, friend group outing or (adult) family adventure! An interactive social hour will start the night with two drink tickets, light bites, strange Zoo games and a visit from a unique animal. Then, we will break out into small tour groups led by Zoo Educators to traverse through Africa, listening to tales of innovation for living harmoniously with wildlife. Such as how a flashlight can shield you against lions, or why a puppy raised with goats can save cheetahs. On our Zoo safari, we will go behind-the-scenes of Hippo Cove Barn and uncover secrets of our world-famous bloat. We’ll finish up our night at our Twiga Tents, gathered round a roaring campfire roasting s’mores. And it doesn’t end there! One last special animal guest will join us in the morning to say goodbye.

Private Cart Tours

DATES: You pick the date for your exclusive cart tour: Tuesdays through Saturdays, April–September, 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Imagine spending an evening at the Zoo, zipping around to your favorite destinations. This two-hour private tour will take you and five of your friends all around the Zoo choose-your-own-adventure style. Led by an experienced Zoo Educator, your group will learn all about the Zoo, its amazing animals, conservation projects, and more! Come ready to ask questions and get the inside scoop. We even get a special behind-the-scenes look at one of our favorite zoo spots as well!

Note: Available for groups of up to 6 attendees, ages 12 years and above. Children ages 12–18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Plant Trials Day

DATE: August 24, 2023
TIMES: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., doors open at 8:00 a.m.

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden horticultural staff and volunteers conduct plant trials on annuals, perennials, and grasses in accordance with regimented protocols. Such trials enable us to develop useful data for gardeners, other public gardens, plant producers, and others in the green community. Learn what made the cut from this year’s trials.

Native Plant Symposium

DATE: November 18, 2023
TIMES: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., doors open at 8:00 a.m.

The annual all-day symposium about native plants. Listen to the country’s best speakers presenting on a wide range of topics, from the best native plants for your garden to in-depth looks at the flora from native ecosystems.

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden began as a Zoological Garden in 1875. Our commitment to beautiful gardens remains just as strong. With a dedication to a great diversity of plants, Zoo guests enjoy thousands of accessioned plants through the seasons, along with the comfort and color they provide and the many pollinators and birds they attract. Internationally known horticultural communicators will deliver informational and educational talks. A fun event for gardeners and professionals.

Note: Available for groups of up to 6 attendees, ages 12 years and above. Children ages 12–18 must be accompanied by an adult.

African Sundowner: Adult 21+ Overnight Adventure

DATES: August 12, September 8, October 6
TIME: 6:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m.

A truly one-of-a-kind experience, the African Sundowner makes a great date night, friend group outing or (adult) family adventure! An interactive social hour will start the night with two drink tickets, light bites, strange Zoo games and a visit from a unique animal. Then, we will break out into small tour groups led by Zoo Educators to traverse through Africa, listening to tales of innovation for living harmoniously with wildlife. Such as how a flashlight can shield you against lions, or why a puppy raised with goats can save cheetahs. On our Zoo safari, we will go behind-the-scenes of Hippo Cove Barn and uncover secrets of our world-famous bloat. We’ll finish up our night at our Twiga Tents, gathered round a roaring campfire roasting s’mores. And it doesn’t end there! One last special animal guest will join us in the morning to say goodbye.

Private Cart Tours

DATES: You pick the date for your exclusive cart tour: Tuesdays through Saturdays, April–September, 5:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

Imagine spending an evening at the Zoo, zipping around to your favorite destinations. This two-hour private tour will take you and five of your friends all around the Zoo choose-your-own-adventure style. Led by an experienced Zoo Educator, your group will learn all about the Zoo, its amazing animals, conservation projects, and more! Come ready to ask questions and get the inside scoop. We even get a special behind-the-scenes look at one of our favorite zoo spots as well!

Note: Available for groups of up to 6 attendees, ages 12 years and above. Children ages 12–18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Plant Trials Day

DATE: August 24, 2023
TIMES: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., doors open at 8:00 a.m.

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden horticultural staff and volunteers conduct plant trials on annuals, perennials, and grasses in accordance with regimented protocols. Such trials enable us to develop useful data for gardeners, other public gardens, plant producers, and others in the green community. Learn what made the cut from this year’s trials.

Native Plant Symposium

DATE: November 18, 2023
TIMES: 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., doors open at 8:00 a.m.

The annual all-day symposium about native plants. Listen to the country’s best speakers presenting on a wide range of topics, from the best native plants for your garden to in-depth looks at the flora from native ecosystems.
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!

Virtual Programs

Virtual Wild Chats

The Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) is an online master’s degree from Miami University that combines web-based coursework with unique experiences at the Zoo. Created for working professionals in various career stages, the AIP immerses students in collaborative inquiry and action as they champion change for the environment and their local community. AIP students join a network of local and national leaders, working together to improve their professions, institutions, neighborhoods, and environments.

Applications for the next cohort are open with a deadline of February 28, 2024 with courses beginning that summer. For more information or to apply, check out cincinnatizoo.org/AIP.

Advanced Inquiry Program

Ignite Ecological & Social Change While Earning Your Master’s Degree
For more information or to register for programs
http://cincinnatizoo.org/education/

Photo by Kathy Newton