



zoo

Education Programs

Fall 2025

For more information or
to register for programs
<http://cincinnatizoo.org/education/>



Toddlers

Count with Me!

Come along as we explore numbers and practice counting together! We'll count all kinds of fun animal features like 1 nose, 2 wings, 4 legs, 8 eyes! We will meet animals face-to-face in the classroom and see more 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 & TIMES:

Tuesdays: Sept. 16, 23, 30 & Oct. 7 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

Wednesdays: Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 8 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

Fridays: Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 3, 10 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

Saturdays: Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

PRICING:

\$90 Members | \$105 Non-members

1-2-3, Dance with Me!

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 & TIMES:

Tuesdays: Oct. 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 11 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

Wednesdays: Oct. 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 12 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

Fridays: Oct. 24, 31 & Nov. 7, 14 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

Saturdays: Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 8, 15 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for four weeks.*

***Note:** Plan for one adult to stay with your child during these classes.

Toddler series is for children 18–36 months old.

PRICING:

\$90 Members | \$105 Non-members

Pre-K

Critter Coverings

Let's explore the fascinating world of animal coverings together! We will touch fur, feathers, scales, and explore with sight, touch, and sound. We will meet animals face-to-face in the classroom and out in the Zoo.

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Saturdays: Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

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PRICING:

\$90 Members | \$105 Non-members

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. Each week we will communicate and share with our classmates, working together to classify our Zoo animals!

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Fridays: Oct. 24, 31 & Nov. 7, 14 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

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PRICING:

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photo by Kathy Newton



photo by Teagan Dumont

Kindergarten

1st and 2nd Grade

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 explore how these body parts help each animal to survive.

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Saturdays: Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

PRICING:

\$95 Members | \$110 Non-members

The Inside Scoop

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.

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Saturdays: Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 8, 15 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks.*

***Note:** Children attend this series independently.

PRICING:

\$95 Members | \$110 Non-members

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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Saturdays: Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11 | 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks.

PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members

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!

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Saturdays: Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 8, 15 | 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members



photo by Kathy Newton



photo by Kathy Newton

3rd and 4th Grade

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? 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.

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Wednesdays: Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 8 | 10:00a.m.–12:00p.m.

Saturdays: Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11 | 1:30p.m.–3:30p.m.

PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members

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 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.

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Saturdays: Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 8, 15 | 1:30p.m.–3:30p.m.

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PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members

5th and 6th Grade

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.

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Wednesdays: Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 8 | 10:00a.m.–12:00p.m.

Saturdays: Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11 | 1:30p.m.–3:30p.m.

Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks.

PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members

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! 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. SSSSsee you there!

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PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members



photo by Kathy Newton

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, 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. Participants will get a chance to demonstrate what they have learned to their families and the public!

DATES & TIMES:

Tuesdays: Sept. 16, 23, 30 & Oct. 7 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: Sept. 17, 24 & Oct. 1, 8 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Saturdays: Sept. 20, 27 & Oct. 4, 11 | 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members

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. With hikes, skull examinations, and some classroom animal visits, we'll take an in-depth look at three specific scientific orders of birds to understand what makes them so unique. Participants will get a chance to share what they learned with their families and the public.

DATES & TIMES:

Tuesdays: Oct. 21, 28 & Nov. 4, 11 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: Oct. 22, 29 & Nov. 5, 12 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Saturdays: Oct. 25 & Nov. 1, 8, 15 | 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

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PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members

Garden Programs

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.

Plant Trials Day Symposium

DATE: August 28, Registration ends 11:59 p.m. August 22

TIME: Doors open 8:00 a.m., program 8:50 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

PRICING: \$129

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 22, Registration ends 11:59 p.m. November 14

TIME: Doors open 8:00 a.m., program 8:50 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

PRICING: \$129

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.



Day Programs

Grandparents Are Grrrreat

DATE: Sept. 6, 2025

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PRICING: \$20 Members | \$25 Non-members

Join us in celebrating the incredible bonds you have with the grandparents in your lives! Together we will learn about animals whose lives are enriched from multigenerational family structures, meet animal ambassadors up-close, and visit some of the grrrreat grandparents we have around our Zoo.

Note: All attendees 3+ years must register. One adult required per group. Children under 3 years are free. Price is per person.



Evening Programs

Zoo Night Hikes: Creepy Crawly Critters

DATES: Sept. 12, Oct. 4, & Oct. 18, 2025

TIME: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

PRICING: \$20 Members | \$25 Non-members

Fall is for all things spooky! But we would love to show you how some animals aren't as scary as they may 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: All attendees 3+ years must register. One adult required per group. Children under 3 years are free. Price is per person.



Overnight Adventures®

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!

DATES: Pick your date Wednesday–Saturday, January through November (Twiga Tented Safari April through October only).

TIME: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m. the next morning

PRICING: \$60–\$70 per person depending on the program, Twiga Tented Safari is sold as one tent of 10 people for \$1,000.

WHO: Perfect for any group. Schools, clubs, scouts, 4-H, birthday parties, family celebrations, sororities/fraternities, work outings and more! Anyone can spend the night at the Zoo over the age of 5!

Adventures in Adaptations

Adaptations are the key to life! Join us as we explore how animals find their food, escape predators, find a mate, and overall SURVIVE in all their unique habitats. Throughout the night we'll explore a few places in the Zoo, participate in fun, educational activities, get a behind-the-scenes sneak peek, and meet some of our animal ambassadors up-close and personal! Then, after the fun, curl up in our private education classrooms overlooking our rainforest.

African Predator Prowl

On the African plains, it's survival of the fittest! Discover the adaptations predators have to hunt and how their prey has 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.

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.

Twiga Tented Safari

Only available April–October. 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 at 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 shared safari tents on cozy cots and waking up to breakfast overlooking Giraffe Ridge.



Zoo After Dark

Adults 21+ Overnight

DATES: Sept. 6, 2025

TIME: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 a.m. the next morning

PRICING: \$190 Members | \$200 Non-members

A truly one-of-a-kind experience, these overnights make 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. On our Zoo safari, we will go behind-the-scenes at Hippo Cove and uncover the secrets of our world-famous bloat. We'll finish up our night at our Twiga Tents, gathered around a roaring campfire roasting s'mores. After the evening excitement, you'll cozy up on your bunked cot in our shared tents.

The next morning, you'll wake up to breakfast overlooking Giraffe Ridge, and it doesn't end there! One last special animal guest will join us in the morning to say goodbye.

Note: All attendees must be 21 and above to register. Price is per person.



Professional Development

Advanced Inquiry Program Master's Degree

Ignite Ecological & Social Change While Earning Your Master's Degree

The Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) is an online master's degree from Miami University that combines web-based coursework from Miami with unique experiential learning 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 will open in September with a submission deadline of **February 15, 2026**. Courses will begin in May 2026. For more information or to learn how to apply, check out cincinnatizoo.org/AIP.



