After Hours Program Information Packet

Group Overnight Adventures

Questions? Call us at 513-559-7730 or email education@cincinnatizoo.org.

To reach a coordinator after 5:00pm the evening of your program, please call 513-236-0156.

***Note, please make sure all participants eat dinner before the start of the program.**

Packet Information

Please forward and share this packet with any adult that is attending the overnight. Chaperones, teachers, parents, guardians can all benefit from this information.

This packet includes information about:

- Page 2: Packing Checklist (What to bring)
- Page 3: General Itinerary
- Page 4: Directions to Education Parking Lot
- Page 5-7: Payment and Cancellation Policies along with General Guidelines & Policies. Including Chaperone information and rules.
- Page 8: Map to Gate 1: Education Center Parking Lot
- Page 9-10: Overnight Adventure Merchandise Information

See any FAQs on our website at https://cincinnatizoo.org/afterhoursguide/

Packing Checklist:

Please note: no showers available.

Outlets are located in each sleeping space.

REQUIRED Items for ALL overnight programs:

- ✓ Closed-toed shoes (boots, sneakers)
- ✓ No flip flops/sandals (this is a rule for our special behind-the-scenes moment)
- ✓ Weather appropriate clothing, including coats/hats/gloves, raincoats, umbrella, poncho or any other outerwear to be comfortable throughout the night.
- ✓ Sleeping bags/blankets/pillow
- ✓ Toothbrush, Toothpaste
- ✓ Refillable Water Bottle
- ✓ Change of clothes for next day
- ✓ Pajamas
- ✓ Snack (see snack info to the right)
- ✓ Any other toiletries

Optional Items:

- Air mattresses are allowed (our overnight sleeping areas have an estimated amount of room for guests to sleep based on size, and air mattresses can throw off that estimate if they are too large. Please keep this in mind when planning your comfort and the size of your group.)
- Sleeping mats or cots are also allowed
- ***Sleep with the Manatees Program -*** Having a wagon, cart or rolling luggage is highly recommended for the walk.
- Money for merchandise if wanted.

Other Personal Items:

- Deodorant
- Contacts/glasses & contact solution
- Brush/comb
- Face wash/Washcloth
- Bug spray/Sunscreen
- Phone charger or charging pack

Snacks

- Sleep with the Manatees, Elephant Trekking at Night, Adventures in Adaptations, African Predator Prowl and Overnight Safaris have a set snack time during the night. You are encouraged to bring an easy-to-eat snack to have during this time – if you want. Please note that no coolers or refrigerators are provided, so easy-to-pack, shelf-stable foods are best.
- **Twiga Tented Safari programs only** include a s'mores roast at the end of the night. Let us know if you need any allergy-friendly items so we can have them in advance. You can also bring an additional snack to eat during this time.

*** Please note that food cannot be delivered to the Zoo. All items must be brought in with you.**

Please Do Not Bring:

- Tobacco/E-Cigarettes/Vapes, Alcohol, Weapons or Firearms regardless of if the individual has a conceal/carry permit.
- Toy weapons, balloons or balls.
- Shoes with "heelys" or skates.

Reminders:

- The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is a smoke-free environment. So, there is no smoking permitted anywhere in the zoo.
- The Zoo has a Zero Tolerance Bullying Policy. Guests must be kind to Zoo staff, no foul/hurtful/discriminatory language, and no violence against our staff or fellow guests, plants, and animals allowed.

***The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is not responsible for lost/stolen items.**

General Itinerary

Arrival 6:45-7:00pm

- Arrive and park at Education's private lot at Gate 1, Erkenbrecher Ave (map link)
- If the gate arm is down and a staff member is not outside, please use the callbox at the gate arm to call for assistance. Before 6:30pm we are working hard to get the night together for your program and may not be able to answer. Please be patient with us and we will be there as soon as possible to welcome your group!
- Get checked in, get your groups together, and bring in overnight items. If you are running late, please contact us at (513)-236-0156. We cannot accommodate late arrivals after 7:30pm.

Program 7:00-10:30pm

- Take night hikes, participate in fun, educational activities, get behind-the-scenes sneak peeks, and meet some of our animal ambassadors up close and personal!
- There is a designated snack time in the evening. Snack is not provided for programs except for Twiga Tented Safari, so coordinate shelf-stable, easy-to-eat snacks for your group and come prepared.
- During snack time, groups can purchase Overnight Adventure specific shirts, patches and other various overnight items using cash or a credit/debit card.

Bedtime 10:30pm-7:00am

- Get ready for bed, get sleeping area ready, drift off to sleep. Bathrooms and outlets are available in all sleeping locations. Showers are not available.
- Please be respectful of others who are resting, which includes the animals around you.
- Chaperones, we encourage your help with keeping your group quiet and mindful during this time.

Wake-Up and Breakfast 7:00-8:30am

- Staff will wake you up at 7am. Get ready for the day, pack up personal items, and enjoy breakfast.
- Sleep with the Manatees, Elephant Trekking at Night, African Predator Prowl and Adventures in Adaptations: breakfast includes variety of cereal, granola bars, yogurt, fruit, juice, and coffee.
- Twiga Tented Safari programs: continental breakfast includes assorted pastries, fruit, yogurt, and bagels along with juice and coffee.

Animal Program 8:30-9:00am

- Enjoy a fun and informative morning activity with our Animal Care Staff.

Explore the Zoo 9:00am-close

- Once the program has ended, you are welcome to explore the Zoo as you wish. Admission to the Zoo (for the following day only) is in included in your program fee.
- Those who choose to stay at the Zoo will need to move vehicles from the Education lot to another of our main lots. A supervisor will hand out parking passes to those moving vehicles and show you where you can park.

Arrival

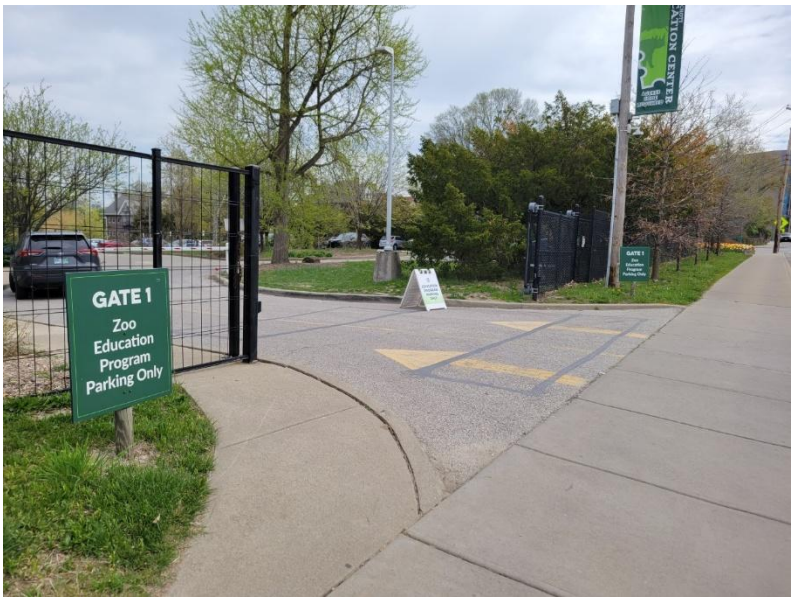
Please enter this into your GPS to get to the Education Parking Lot:
58 Erkenbrecher Ave
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

Do ***NOT*** enter Cincinnati Zoo into the GPS because that will take you to one of the main parking lots, and that is not the correct place.

Participants should arrive 15-minutes prior to program start time. If you are running late, please contact us at (513)-236-0156. We cannot accommodate arrivals after 7:30pm.

You will park/enter the Zoo through **Gate 1: Zoo Education Program Parking Only**. This is a private lot separate from the main Zoo parking lots. It often has a sign that says, "Education Program Parking Only" on an A-frame sign. This lot is located on the corner of Erkenbrecher Avenue and Dury Avenue. Please see the map at the end of this packet for directions to this lot.

When you pull in, you will see a big gate arm and a small black box on the left side of the driveway. Pull up to that black box. Enter the code that was emailed to the Main Contact to your group. They should provide this for you in advance. Enter that code, and press the pound sign, and park anywhere in the lot.



This is the black box that you will pull up to and enter the code to park in the lot.

***Please note that the doors to the Education Center will remain locked until 6:45pm to allow time for the Overnight Staff to prepare for your program. So if you arrive early, please wait in your car until that time.**

Late Arrivals & Early Departures

Participants should arrive 15-minutes prior to program start time. If you are running late, please contact us at (513)-236-0156. We cannot accommodate arrivals after 7:30pm.

There are two options for participants that need to leave the program early. Participants must be accompanied by a staff member at all times, and any early departures need to be coordinated in advance with the staff.

Morning of program:

- African Predator Prowl, Adventures in Adaptations, Twiga Tented Safari program participants can depart after 7:00am.
- Sleep with the Manatees and Elephant Trekking at Night program participants can depart after 7:45am. The Manatee and Elephant Buildings are located about a 10-minute hike away from the car parking lot and participants must be accompanied by staff while in the Zoo.

Evening of Program:

- Depart at the end of the evening program at approximately 10:30 or 10:45pm.

Supervision/Chaperone Information

The Zoo requires one adult for every 7 children attending. Children younger than 5 years old are not permitted to attend overnight programs and may be asked to be picked up for the evening if they attend. Adults/Chaperones are responsible for the safety and behavior of the children at all times.

Adults do have a job for the evening! Our Educators are responsible for leading the group to the fun locations we will be visiting, but the chaperones are there to help keep everyone together and monitor the behavior of the group. Being at the zoo after hours is a privilege and it takes an army to ensure we are on our best behavior and seeing all the cool things! If any adults have questions about what they may be responsible for throughout the evening, call us at 513-559-7730 or email education@cincinnatizoo.org.

Behavior and Damages

The Zoo reserves the right to end a program and require participants to leave for unruly or dangerous behavior. Guests will be billed for damages to Zoo property. Having chaperones who are attentive and ready to help with behavior issues throughout the evening is wonderful. We absolutely appreciate the chaperones!

Alcohol, Drugs and Firearms

Outside alcohol, drugs and firearms (regardless if the individual has a conceal/carry permit) are not permitted on grounds at any time. This is a non-smoking facility; no one will be permitted to smoke/vape on Zoo grounds.

Payment Policy

- A 25% non-refundable deposit is required during booking based on your best, highest number of participants for your booking. This deposit is due no later than two weeks after you have booked your program date. This deposit will be applied to your total program fee.
- Finalized participant numbers (including all adults) and the balance of your program fee is due no later than four weeks prior to your program date.
    - Once a deposit is paid, you will only be able to *decrease* your participant number as we schedule the appropriate number of instructors based on your group size.
    - Minimum payment for African Predator Prowl, Adventures in Adaptations, Sleep with the Manatees, and Elephant Trekking at Night programs are for 15 participants.
    - Minimum payment for Twiga Tented Safari program is 1 tent.
- Accepted payments include check, credit/debit card, or purchase order. If you are paying with a PO, we require a copy of the actual PO; numbers only will not be accepted.
- Please call our Education Registrars at 513-559-7730 to finalize details and provide the rest of your program fee.
- Checks can be made out to: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Include your order number in the memo line of your payment. Please let us know if you will be paying with a check.
    - Mail: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, ATTN: Education Department, After Hours Programs, 3400 Vine Street, Cincinnati Ohio 45220

Rescheduling and Cancellation Policy

Rescheduling Policy

- Group may reschedule their date once, up to two weeks before your program date.
    - At least 4 weeks in advance of your program date incurs no fees.
    - Between 15-28 days before your program date, $200 rescheduling fee.
    - Less than 15 days before your program, is considered a cancellation and will follow the cancellation policy.

Cancellation Policy:

- All deposits are non-refundable after two weeks of booking your program.
- 14 days or more before your program date will be refunded any payments minus the deposit.
- Less than 14 days forfeit deposit and all other payments.

If you need to reschedule or cancel, please contact our Education Registrars at 513-559-7730 or email education@cincinnatizoo.org as soon as possible.

General Program Policies

Our experienced staff will explain and enforce rules during the program with help from you and the chaperones!

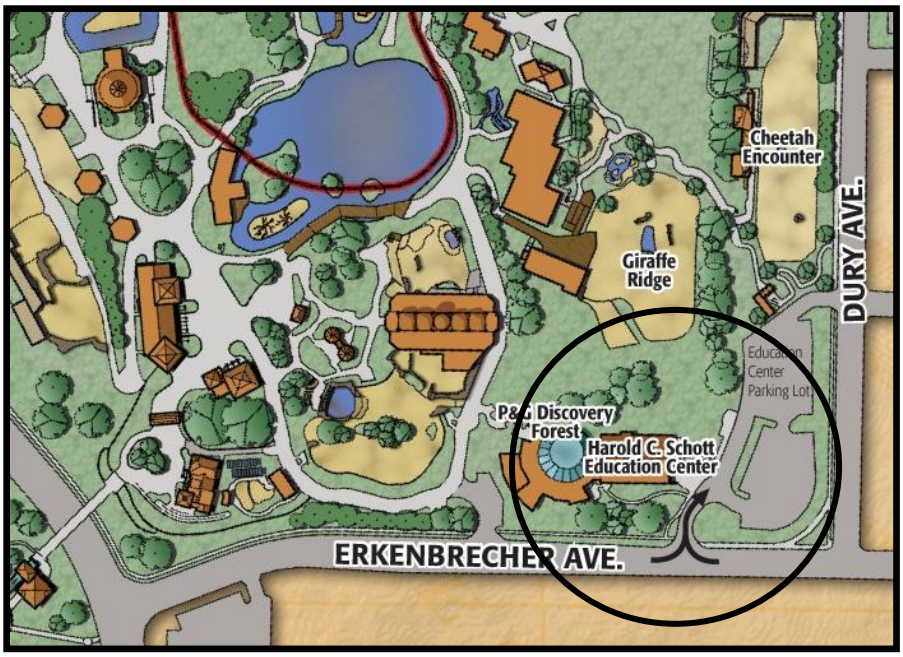
- Please respect the rocks, rails & roots! Always stay on the walkways in the Zoo, behind barriers, off fences and rocks, and out of plant areas.
- For the animals' well-being, please do not tap on the habitats' glass or throw things into habitats. Always respect the animals and their space, especially when they are getting their rest at night.
- Please respect Zoo facilities and leave each space as you found it.
- While the Zoo is closed, all guests (including adults) are permitted on Zoo grounds ONLY with an accompanying Zoo employee.
- Please set your cell phone to silent or vibrate and avoid using it unless there is an emergency. You can use your phones for pictures but are encouraged to experience the moment without viewing it through a screen.
- If anyone gets sick in the middle of the program, they will be asked to leave. This is best for everyone involved to maintain a great experience and keep everyone safe and healthy.
- Bicycles, skates, Heelys, hoverboards, skateboards, roller blades and scooters are not permitted on Zoo grounds. As well as balls, balloons and fake weapons.
- Guests must be kind to Zoo staff, no foul/hurtful/discriminatory language, and no violence against our staff or fellow guests, plants, and animals allowed. You may be asked to leave if anyone in your group breaks this rule.

Media Release Agreement

By participating in a Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden program, all participants grant the Zoo permission to use and publish photographs, video, or audio, written statements and/or verbal interviews from participants. The Zoo is allowed all rights, title, and interest in the finished work and may transfer or broadcast the same to any individual, business, TV, radio station, or print media.

The Zoo thanks you in advance for your cooperation and for helping make your overnight program a memorable and educational experience!

Please Enter this in the GPS to get to the Harold C Schott Education Parking Lot:
58 Erkenbrecher Ave
Cincinnati, Ohio 45220



FROM I-75 NORTH:
Take I-75 North to the Mitchell Ave. Exit (Exit 6).
Turn right onto Mitchell Ave.
*Follow Mitchell Ave. to Vine St.
Turn right on Vine St. at the light. (Walgreens is on the right.)
Follow Vine St. for approximately 1.4 miles.
Turn left onto Erkenbrecher Ave. at the light.
Turn left into the Education Lot/Gate 1 (½ block down on left).

FROM I-75 SOUTH:
Take I-75 South to the Mitchell Ave. Exit (Exit 6).
Turn left onto Mitchell Ave.
Follow directions above from *Mitchell Ave.

FROM I-74:
Take I-74 East to I-75 North and follow directions for "From I-75 North".

FROM I-71 NORTH:
Take I-71 North to the Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Exit (Exit 3).
**Turn right onto Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. and follow for approximately 1.2 miles.
Turn right onto Vine St. and follow for approximately ¾ mile.
Turn right onto Erkenbrecher Avenue at the light.
Turn left into the Education Lot/Gate 1 (½ block down on left.)

FROM I-71 SOUTH:
Take I-71 South to the Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Exit (Exit 3B).
Follow directions above from **.

Overnight Adventure Merchandise:

Exclusive items only for folks who spend the night at the Zoo! These items are sold during either snack time in the evening, or breakfast time in the morning. We do our best to keep items in stock but cannot promise sizing or availability.

- We accept most major credit cards, and cash ($20 bills or lower)
- We unfortunately cannot ship items

Overnight T-shirts (glows in the dark!): $25
Sizes Youth Small – Adult 3XL

Round 2.5inch Patches: $5 each

Pop-It Keychains: $5 each

Maasai Beadwork:

During a few of the programs here at the zoo, we talk about the amazing beadwork created by the SORALO's Women's Groups. When you purchase beads, you are contributing to a healthy community of people and wildlife. SORALO, a Zoo partner for almost 20 years, builds thriving landscapes for pastoralists and wildlife in Kenya. Maasai women in these communities craft beadwork as a celebration of their culture. Proceeds of bead sales are reinvested by the women into community needs such as school support, public health programs, and wildlife coexistence work and research.

Learn more about this initiative here:
https://youtu.be/290rOTlKK0k
https://soralo.org/

Pricing:

Single Bracelet: $5

Set of 3 Bracelets: $14

Set of 5 Bracelets: $20

Single Necklace: $8

Set of 2 Necklaces: $15

Set of 3 Necklaces: $25