

PLEASE READ BEFORE YOUR TRIP TO THE ZOO

The purpose of education at the Tulsa Zoo is to help people of all ages develop a better understanding of the natural world.

Students who are prepared for their visit to the Zoo get a lot more out of the visit, and make it easier for the volunteers to work with them. Therefore, advance preparation is very important. Below are listed a few activities that we encourage you to do to prepare your students for the Zoo.

1. Introduce the Zoo with a class discussion about what the students' think about zoos.
 - a. What are zoos?
 - b. What do zoos do?
 - c. Have they been to the Tulsa Zoo?
 - d. What did they like or not like about the visit?
 - e. What do they expect their zoo visit with their class to be like?
 - f. What do they expect to see? Learn?
2. Have the students make a bulletin board collage using animal pictures from newspapers and magazines.
3. Have the students look for zoo articles and pictures in the newspaper.
4. Have students make up a list of zoo manners they should follow and a list of things they should not bring with them the day they come with their class. For example:
 - a. Zoo Manners:
 - i. no running, yelling, fighting, or climbing fences.
 - ii. Stay close to your group so you can hear and participate in activities.
 - iii. Raise your hand when you have a question or wish to answer a question
 - b. Things Not To Bring
 - i. Cameras or radios
 - ii. Money for souvenirs, soft drinks
 - c. Things To Bring
 - i. Lunch in a paper sack.
5. Read animal stories or play tapes of animal or environmental sounds.
6. Have the students make name tags with their first names in large letters. Name tags should be fastened with a safety pin.

Another important part of our overall program is FOLLOW-UP activities to reinforce the concepts they learned while at the Zoo. Below is a list of possible follow-up activities.

1. Again, have a discussion about the students' experiences at the Zoo.
 - a. What did they like the most? Least? Why?
 - b. What new things did they learn?

Include the answers to these questions in letters that the students write to the Zoo. We really encourage this activity because it is a special way to thank the docents for their time and, also, will help us make our programs better.

2. Have the students create a large poster or mural about the Zoo visit that could be displayed for the entire school.
3. Have the students design and write “travel brochures” for a trip to see the animals and their habitat.