

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if a child gets separated from our group?

Please proceed immediately to Gateway Pavilion, where Lincoln Park Zoo staff will assist you in reuniting your group. For younger children, attaching school name and contact information to a shirt or nametag can be helpful. We discourage the inclusion of children's personal information or names for their own protection.

What if parents are driving separately and meeting us at the zoo?

We are thrilled that parents are coming along on your field trip! Please encourage parents to arrive in advance of the bus rather than at the same time. We often ask private cars to wait before entering the parking lot to help keep bus traffic moving through. By arriving early, they will have the opportunity to park without delay.

It can be difficult to pick a single school or class out of hundreds of students all arriving through the same gate. We suggest that you either share cell phone numbers, or if that is not possible, arrange a second meeting site and time if you happen to miss each other upon arrival.

If we come in winter, is there even anything to see?

With numerous major indoor exhibit spaces, the zoo offers a great deal for you and your students to explore even when there is snow on the ground. With fewer visitors, you'll find it's easier for you and your students to get right up to exhibits, spending as much time as you'd like, in a quieter environment. And while it's true that a few animals are not visible in their outdoor enclosures, others do just fine in the snow. Without dense brush, some are even easier to see than they are during the warmer months

What resources can help me plan for my visit?

We are in the process of creating lots of new materials to support your visit to the zoo as well as provide activity ideas to try before or after your visit. We're also creating materials to guide your visit around a central, standards-based theme. To learn more about all our educator resources, visit www.lpzoo.org/education

Can I have a map for each of my students?

We love it when students take control of their experience and help with navigating your visit. As you can imagine, we also try to be sensitive to the environment and reduce our paper use whenever possible. We encourage you as the teacher to pick up a large foldout map upon arrival to support your experience but regret that we cannot provide enough for each student to have their own. If you would like to print out the maps yourself, you can access our online Visitor Guide at www.lpzoo.org/pdf/info/VisitorsGuide.pdf.