

## Frequently Asked Overnight Questions

### Who are private overnights for?

Private overnights are for any youth group looking to learn and have fun at the Zoo! We cater to girl scouts, boy scouts, church groups, youth groups, and other community youth organizations. We have a minimum requirement of 24 paying participants (adults and/or children) and a maximum of 35 participants (adults and/or children). Participants must be six (6) years old or older at the time of the event. Please, no toddlers or babies!

### What does the Zoo provide?

Overnights include personalized tours of the Zoo including an after dark tour of the Wild Life Trail, a visit from some of our outreach animals, a tour of the animal diet kitchen, late night snack (usually seasonal, including hot cocoa and cookies or ice cream) and movie, a light breakfast, and of course, a unique nocturnal experience at the Zoo! We'll also include a unique 'Roars and Snores' patch to commemorate your experience! Admission to the Zoo immediately following the overnight is also included, in case you want to explore on your own. The event may also include keeper interactions, a badge or patch component, and other activities based on your group's needs (please discuss with registrar when you book your overnight). Every effort will be made to provide allergy neutral foods; please note that dairy and wheat products may be served. If you or members of your group have special dietary needs, please alert the registrar before the event.

### What about dinner?

Dinner is not included in the price of the overnight, but may be purchased at an additional cost of \$4.00 per person. Dinner includes pizzas, salad, snacks such as pretzels and goldfish crackers, and drinks. Please let the Education Coordinator know if your group would like to purchase dinner when you book your overnight. Payment for dinner is required with the final balance no later than one week before your scheduled overnight.

### What should we bring?

Overnight participants should bring a sleeping bag (it does get chilly in the classrooms at night), pillow, toiletries (including a hand towel), and PJs. Please remember to dress for the weather; tours will go outside! Please do not bring electronics (including games), food (unless you have a special dietary need), or flashlights (unless you'd like to read before bed) or air mattresses larger than twin sized (we have *very* limited space!).

- Each participant under the age of 18 without a parent or legal guardian on Zoo grounds during the overnight must have a signed *Consent and Waiver* form on file. This form will be included in the confirmation mailing after we receive your deposit.

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## **FAQs continued...**

### **Where do we sleep?**

Overnights take place in the education classrooms, which are climate controlled. There are bathroom facilities but no showers. Participants sleep on the floor, which is carpeted. We do not provide mats or cots. Sleeping mats and air mattresses are welcome, but keep in mind that you may be sharing sleeping space with up to 34 (or more!) other people, so please limit the size of your mattresses/sleeping pads to **twin** (full sized may be permissible if more than one person is sleeping on it).

### **When do overnights take place?**

Overnights typically take place on Friday or Saturday nights depending on staff and facility availability. Overnights take place year round, from January to June and September to December. Overnights are not scheduled during July and August, as Summer Zoo Camp utilizes the education facilities. Due to the popularity of the Zoo's banquet facilities, another event may be scheduled during the same time as your overnight. Every effort will be made to keep event and overnight groups separate.

### **What is the cost?**

Overnights cost **\$40.00** per participant. We require one (1) adult chaperone for every seven (7) children, and that adult is free. Additional adults are welcome for \$40.00 each. A minimum fee of \$960.00 (equivalent to 24 paying participants, children and/or adults) is required to run an overnight program. If your troop or group is unable to meet the minimum requirement, you may combine with another troop on your own or we will try to combine for you. If your group is smaller than 15 people (children and adults), you must combine with another group. Please indicate if you need to combine when you book your date. If you do not wish to combine with another troop or group, the minimum payment of \$960.00 is required even if you do not bring 24 people. A signed contract and \$200.00 deposit is required within two weeks of reserving your date.

**Please note:** If you have indicated your group must combine with another to meet the minimum, every effort will be made to combine your group, but we cannot guarantee that a group will be combined. Groups may be rescheduled by zoo staff based on availability if the minimum is not met. Zoo staff reserves the right to cancel an overnight that does not meet the minimum participant requirement.