

Zoo To You Program Topics

In accordance with the mission of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, a main goal of the Zoo to You program is to increase awareness of the animal kingdom, and encourage program participants to be environmentally conscious. All programs are created for the designated age groups, and the content is aligned with the New York State Learning Standards; however most programs can be adapted for a variety of age groups, not just for the age group specified in the list below.

As always, if you have a special topic in mind that you don't see here, please let us know and we will try to accommodate your needs!

Pre-Schoolers (Ages 3 – 5)

Program Title: *“Scratch n’ Sniff”*

Program Description: Animals move and use their senses just like us. See for yourself how some different animals move, smell, hear, and feel and use a few of your own senses to learn more about them.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the differences between human and animal sensory organs and how those senses help them to survive in the wild.

Program Title: *“I’ve Got Needs, Too”*

Program Description: All animals need certain things to survive, just like people do! Join us as we explore what different animals like to eat and drink, how they stay warm, and how they get the air they need.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the four (4) basic needs of all animals and how they each go about meeting those needs



Program Title: *“Animal Coverings”*

Program Description: What are some different animal coverings? Why are birds covered with feathers? Here's your chance to see and touch some different coverings, and learn more about the animals that have them!

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the concept of a body coverings and show them examples of different body coverings and the purposes they serve

Early Elementary Students (Grades K - 2 | Ages 5 – 7)

Program Title: “*Predator vs. Prey*”

Program Description: What is a predator? What is prey? Meet an example of each, and learn about the exciting world of hunters and the hunted in the animal kingdom.

Goal/Purpose: To discuss the fundamental structure and necessity of the food chain/web. This program also serves to introduce the different categories of animal diets (i.e. carnivores, herbivore, omnivore, frugivore, insectivore, etc.)

Program Title: “*Ready, Set, Grow!*”

Program Description: What changes happen when animals grow? You will see a variety of animals (including an amphibian), and learn what changes occur to them between egg and adult.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the concept of life cycles and discuss the differences in developmental stages among different species

Program Title: “*Classy Critters*”

Program Description: Can't tell your reptile from your invertebrate? We can help! Join us to compare and contrast the different classes of animals using real live examples!

Goal/Purpose: To introduce the concept of grouping species according to shared characteristics or genetic relationships and to share with students the 6 major groups of animals/insects.



Intermediate Students (Grades 3 - 5 | Ages 8 – 10)

Program Title: “*A Place to Call Home*”

Program Description: Local woodlands, deserts, tropical rainforests...these are just some of the places our animals call home. Discover some of the habitats our animals live in, and how they have adapted to survive there.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to a variety of habitats found around the world and how the animals that live in those habitats not only survive but thrive.

Program Title: “*Tangled Up in Food Webs*”

Program Description: Just who is eating what? Meet some of our live animals, and together we'll untangle how they fit in their own food webs; what they eat...and what might eat them!

Goal/Purpose: To discuss the fundamental structure and necessity of the food chain/web. This program also serves to introduce the different categories of animal diets (i.e. carnivores, herbivore, omnivore, frugivore, insectivore, etc.)

Program Title: “Running Out of Time”

Program Description: What is an endangered species? Learn why animals are endangered, meet some of the zoo’s resident endangered species, and find out what can be done to save them and how you can help. PowerPoint presentation optional.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the different classifications of population size (i.e. rare, threatened, endangered, etc), to discuss what makes a particular species of plant or animal endangered and what can be done to prevent their extinction.



Middle and High School Students (Grades 6 - 12| Ages 11+)

Program Title: “At Home in My Biome”

Program Description: Learn about the different biomes of the world, and what animals live in each. We will also get the chance to meet some animals from a few of the biomes, and discuss how they fit in. PowerPoint presentation optional.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the various biomes found throughout the world and discuss how the animals that live there have adapted to survive in that environment.

Program Title: “Wild Careers”

Program Description: Think you may want to work at a zoo someday? Learn about the different types of jobs at zoos, and what it takes to prepare for a career working with animals...or not. Also, you will meet some animals that are a part of every workday here at the zoo. Includes PowerPoint presentation.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the wide and diverse variety of professional careers that can be found at a zoo or working with animals.

Program Title: “Amazing Adaptations”

Program Description: Why is that frog brightly colored? How far can an owl turn its head? In this popular program for all ages, discover how our animals survive in their environments using special features, or adaptations.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the concept of adaptations, characteristics that help animals to survive in the wild, and to show/discuss with them specific examples of different adaptations.

Program Title: “Going Native”

Program Description: New York State is full of some real characters; in the animal kingdom that is! Get to know some of your animal neighbors, and learn more about how they make their living in the Empire State.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to animal species native to New York State.

Program Title: “Ready, Set, Survive!”

Program Description: Discover how nature and the environment contribute to the survival or demise of all living thing. Learn how animals in different families have changed and evolved through natural selection. PowerPoint presentation optional.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the concept of evolution and natural selection; highlighting how and why certain characteristics are more favorable than others.

Program Title: “Running Out of Time” (formally known as “Going, Going, Gone”)

Program Description: What is an endangered species? Learn why animals are endangered, meet some of the zoo’s resident endangered species, and find out what can be done to save them and how you can help.

Goal/Purpose: To introduce students to the different classifications of population size (i.e. rare, threatened, endangered, etc), to discuss what makes a particular species of plant or animal endangered and what can be done to prevent their extinction.



Adults and Mixed Age Groups

Program Title: “*Amazing Adaptations*”

Program Description: Why is that frog brightly colored? How far can an owl turn its head? In this popular program for all ages, discover how our animals survive in their environments using special features, or adaptations.

Program Title: “*Going Native*”

Program Description: New York State is full of some real characters; in the animal kingdom that is! Get to know some of your animal neighbors, and learn more about how they make their living in the Empire State.

Program Title: “*Ready, Set, Survive!*”

Program Description: Discover how nature and the environment contribute to the survival or demise of all living thing. Learn how animals in different families have changed and evolved through natural selection. PowerPoint presentation optional.

Program Title: “*Running Out of Time*” (formally known as “*Going, Going, Gone*”)

Program Description: What is an endangered species? Learn why animals are endangered, meet some of the zoo’s resident endangered species, and find out what can be done to save them and how you can help. PowerPoint presentation optional.

Program Title: “*What’s New at the Zoo*”

Program Description: Haven’t been to the zoo in a while? There’s no need to wait for warm weather or extended family to visit. Get an introduction to what’s up and coming from new animals to new exhibits, and meet some of our outreach animal ambassadors. This is an excellent pre-cursor for groups planning a field trip to the zoo. PowerPoint presentation optional.

