



**Education Department**  
**Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden**  
1545 Mesker Park Drive; Evansville, IN 47720

### **How do you request a program?**

It's easy! Just call the Education Program Coordinator at 435 – 6143 x 414 Monday through Friday and she will reserve a spot for you! Our Programs Coordinator can also help you with additional information, program outlines, and additional resources to make your visit an unforgettable learning experience.

### **Prices**

- On-grounds Programs
  - \$30 per 30 people for a 45-minute talk. Teachers are free.
  - Does not include zoo admission for the group, however groups of 15 or more can make a group reservation.
- Off-grounds Programs
  - \$50 in Evansville for a 45-minute talk. Limit 30 people.
  - \$60 for outside of Evansville boundaries (Plus \$0.44/mile if the distance is more than 30 miles.)
- Animal Encounters – Trained interpreters bring 4 –6 animals for 1.5 hrs during regular business hours (number of attendees unlimited).
  - \$200 for Non-Profits
  - \$275 for Corporations
  - Additional time may be purchased for \$100 per half hour.
- Our evening availability is extremely limited. There is an additional fee of \$20 and each request for an evening program will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. We are sorry that we cannot currently offer on-grounds evening programs.

### **Helpful Hints**

- Our programs are extremely popular and fill fast. Call at least two months in advance for the best chance to book a program. We regret that we cannot book programs with less than 4 weeks notice.
- Programs may be scheduled on both weekdays and weekends.
- Please note that if you are booking two programs back-to-back, then each program will be 30 minutes in length.
- We regret that requests for three programs on the same day cannot be granted.
- We ask that off-grounds programs be within a 30-mile radius of the zoo. To schedule a program outside this limit requires special permission, so please leave sufficient time for us to process your request.
- Teachers and group chaperones must remain with their groups and are responsible for keeping order.
- Payment is due the day of the program. We accept cash, check, and Visa or MasterCard.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Can your programs help me meet my students' state-mandated goals?

**Yes!** Many of our programs are designed specifically to support ISAS and all of our programs can help bring your students' academic goals to life. This chart illustrates how each of our talks complement objectives for each grade level. If you are interested in receiving more information about a specific talk, or how our programs complement Illinois Learning Standards and Kentucky Core Content, please contact us.

	The Nature of Science and Technology	Scientific Thinking	The Physical Setting	The Living Environment	The Mathematical World	Common Themes	Historical Perspectives
<b>K-2</b>							
Plants and Animals	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	
Meet the Vertebrates	◆		◆	◆		◆	
A Class Apart	◆			◆			
Globe-trotters*	◆			◆			
<b>3-5</b>							
Plant Partners	◆			◆		◆	
Food Webs	◆			◆		◆	
Rainforests			◆	◆			
Biomes**			◆	◆			
<b>6-8</b>							
Amazing Adaptations			◆	◆		◆	
Zoo Careers	◆						
Zoo History	◆						◆
Endangered Species	◆	◆	◆	◆			
Domestication				◆			

These objectives are the focus of our talks. Other objectives may be covered as well.

\* Fits Social Studies Standard K.3.2

\*\* Fits Social Studies Standard 3.3.5

## Can I schedule an on-grounds program at my location?

**Sorry.** While many of our programs can travel off grounds, some of our programs depend on resources that are only available at the zoo or are too fragile to transport.

## Can I request a program that is not designed for the age of my group?

**Maybe.** Some of our programs can be tailored for almost any age (see the brochure for a list). While our programs are best suited for specific age groups, we may be able to accommodate a specific request.

## Can I have more than 30 children attend the program?

**Sorry.** Our program limits are designed to provide the highest quality program while protecting the health and safety of both our animals and your children. It may be possible to accommodate your larger group by scheduling more than one program back-to-back or on separate days. We will do our best to ensure you a quality experience, but large class sizes are unsuitable for live animal presentations. Please note that due to animal health concerns, back-to-back programs are limited to 30 minutes in length.

## We're coming to the zoo, but no programs are available. Is there anything else we can do?

**Yes!** We have great scavenger hunts and pre-visit activities that can turn your zoo trip into an educational adventure. Our scavenger hunts and WebQuests are age-specific and tailored to support state-mandated education goals.