

# Education Programs

## Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden

### On or Off grounds Programs (45 minutes, limit 30 people, 7 days a week)

\* Please note that any of our programs can be adapted for any age group.\*

#### Most Appealing to PreK – Lower Elementary

- Animal Appreciation** - Learn how to interact with animals.
- Look Ma, No Teeth!** - How do animals without teeth eat?
- Globe Trotters** - Learn about animals around the world.
- Plants & Animals** - Investigate the differences between plants & animals via observation & tactile exploration.
- Meet the Vertebrates** - Explore the differences between the vertebrates (what's a vertebrate, anyway?)
- A Class Apart** - Focus on the vertebrate class of your choice: reptiles, birds, amphibians or mammals.
- Jumping Jive!** - Explore the different ways animals move.

#### Most Appealing to Upper Elementary – Middle School

- You Are What You Eat** - How is an animal's food reflected in its shape?
- Food Webs** - Track the flow of energy through an ecosystem and meet animals from several trophic levels.
- Going, Going, Gone** - More and more species are at risk due to human impact. How can you help?
- Plant Partners** - How do plants defend themselves & use animals for pollination and seed dispersal?
- Domestication** - Learn about the complex interactions between plants, animals and people which has led to domestication of some species.
- Biomes** - Learn about the global regions of plants and animal groups and how they adapt to their physical environment.

#### Appealing to Any Age/Mixed Ages:

- Amazing Adaptations** - How do animals survive and thrive in their environments?
- Rainforests** - Discover the amazing biodiversity that exists in the rainforests.

### Animal Encounters (1 ½ hours, 7 days a week, off grounds)

Perfect for large groups, company picnics, and other self-paced activities. Trained interpreters guide people through this hands-on discovery session with 4-6 live animals plus animal artifacts. A shelter must be provided for outdoor events.

#### Prices

- On Grounds Programs: \$30. Zoo admission is not included, but groups of 15 or more can make a group reservation for admission at a discounted rate.
- Off Grounds Programs: \$50 in Evansville area; \$60 plus .57/mile outside Evansville area.
- Animal Encounter: \$200 for non-profits and \$275 for corporations.
- Evening Fee: \$20. (Very limited; special permission required.)

#### Additional Information

- Adult and student scavenger hunts are also available at no cost.
- Most programs meet state mandated education goals.
- If you need to book two programs back-to-back, each will be 30 minutes in length. Due to health concerns for our animals, we cannot book 3 programs on the same day.
- 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, checks, Visa, MasterCard and Discover. We can issue invoices and W9 forms in advance if needed.
- Please note that our animals may not come into contact with other animals.



#### Scheduling a Program

Our programs are extremely popular and fill quickly. Call at least two months in advance for the best chance to book a program. We regret we cannot book programs with less than 4 weeks' notice. Contact the education department at (812) 435-0809 or [education@meskerparkzoo.com](mailto:education@meskerparkzoo.com) to reserve a date and time.



# 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.

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

Yes! While our programs are best suited for specific age groups, any of our programs can be adapted for any age group.

	<i>The Nature of Science and Technology</i>	<i>Scientific Thinking</i>	<i>The Physical Setting</i>	<i>The Living Environment</i>	<i>The Mathematical World</i>	<i>Common Themes</i>	<i>Historical Perspectives</i>
<b>K-2</b>							
Animal Appreciation	◆		◆	◆			
Look Ma, No Teeth	◆	◆		◆			
Globe-trotters*	◆			◆			
Plants and Animals		◆		◆	◆	◆	
Meet the Vertebrates	◆		◆	◆		◆	
A Class Apart	◆			◆			
Jumping Jive!	◆			◆			
<b>3-5</b>							
You Are What You Eat	◆	◆	◆	◆			
Food Webs	◆			◆		◆	
Plant Partners	◆			◆		◆	
Rainforests			◆	◆			
Biomes**			◆	◆			
<b>6-8</b>							
Amazing Adaptations			◆	◆		◆	
Going, Going, Gone	◆	◆	◆	◆			
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 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 that can turn your zoo trip into an educational adventure. Our scavenger hunts are age-specific and tailored to support state-mandated education goals.