

# Zoo Explorers

## Logistics and Planning

### Making a Reservation

We ask all school and camp groups planning a zoo visit to register online. While there is no charge for your visit to the zoo, this helps us determine staffing needs so that we can provide our visitors with the best possible zoo experience. Register at [lpzoo.org/education](http://lpzoo.org/education) by selecting “Plan a Field Trip.”

### Arranging for Special Activities

Decide which additional activities or services you'd like to add to your reservation. Whatever you decide, be clear with students before the visit about your plans for the day.

### Managing the Day

Be prepared for the logistics of the day—from bus drop-off to the number of chaperones you'll have with your class. Things to consider include:

#### Allow Enough Time

Select a departure time from your school that allows for traffic delays and parking lot congestion but still provides sufficient time for exploring the zoo. Buildings on zoo grounds do not open until 10 a.m., but many of our animals can be seen in their outdoor enclosures at an earlier hour.

#### Plan for Emergencies

Be sure to bring along a cell phone, parent-contact information, and procedures to follow if a student should become separated from your group. If you need assistance while at the zoo, proceed directly to Searle Visitor Center, where we can provide the help you need.

#### Connecting with Parents

The bus drop-off area can become quite congested. If parents plan to meet you at the zoo, we suggest that you pick a specific exhibit at which to meet, as well as a meeting time that allows for delays. If possible, share cell phone numbers in case plans should change.

#### Bathroom Breaks

There are several bathrooms located throughout the zoo. Our high-capacity restrooms are on the bottom level of the lion house, with male and female restrooms on opposite sides.

Bathrooms with smaller capacity (but helpful for emergencies or small groups) can be found at:

- Bottom level of Park Place Café
- Farm-in-the-Zoo
- Foreman Pavillion (seasonally)
- Indoor area of Pritzker Family Children's Zoo
- Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House
- Searle Visitor Center

### Managing Lunch Time

Though we do not provide monitored lunch storage, there are several options for managing student lunches. Students can carry their own lunches throughout the zoo as long as lunches are closed and food sealed. You may also choose to bring your own personal lock and secure student lunches using our outdoor cage lockers. We do not, however, suggest leaving valuables in this area. We do have pay lockers that require four quarters. These are not large, so several would be needed to store lunches for a full class.

When it is time to eat, there are several areas set aside for you to enjoy your lunch. If you would like to enjoy the outdoors, you may select from picnic tables near the bus drop-off or the sheltered Foreman Pavilion area near the McCormick Swan Pond. In the event of cold weather, you may eat in Tadpole Room, which is located indoors on the bottom floor of Park Place Café. Please note that these eating areas are open to all groups and cannot be reserved.

Seating at the tables associated with our Zoo Foods locations throughout the zoo is reserved for customers only. This includes the Landmark Café, Park Place Café, Café Brauer, and Bird's Eye Bar & Grill. We thank you in advance for your understanding.