

Franklin Park Zoo Field Trips 2023-2024



NEW ENGLAND

Franklin Park Zoo • Stone Zoo



Planning ahead

Franklin Park Zoo offers FREE admission to Massachusetts school children who visit during scheduled field trips that are reserved in advance. Field trips must be booked at least **two weeks** before.

Eligibility

Are students always free at the Zoo?

Only if the teacher has a confirmed reservation. The free field trip program is in effect on regular school days from Sept. - June. Free trips **do not** extend to home schools, daycares, after school programs, camps or out-of-state schools.

Chaperones

The Zoo requires a specific ratio of adults to children. A chaperone is an adult - teacher, assistant, parent - on the field trip responsible for overseeing a group of children. Please note, teachers are NOT automatically free. Any adult beyond the ratios listed below require paid admission.

Free adults per student group.

Grade(s)	Ratio
K	1 adult per 5 students
1-12	1 adult per 10 students
Special Needs	1 adult per 1 student

Additional adults \$19.95 each



How to reserve a field trip

- 1 Visit zoonewengland.org/groups
- 2 Click on "Massachusetts School Groups"
- 3 Complete the school group reservation form
- 4 You will receive a confirmation within one week. Bring the form with you on the day of your visit.
- 5 Have any fees due ready by your trip date. Trips must be paid in full to gain entry to the Zoo.

How do I know if I will owe anything?

Your confirmation gives an estimate of your fees. This estimate is for planning purposes only. The group leader is responsible for completing the confirmation paperwork based on their day-of attendance. Additional children not in the class (ex: siblings) or additional adults are not included in the group reservation and must pay full admission price.

How do I pay for extra adults?

Extra adults beyond the free chaperone ratio can receive a discounted admission ONLY IF you pay for them in one transaction at the gate on the day of your visit. Adults arriving separately will have to pay the FULL adult price. Payments can be made using cash, check, or credit card. Credit cards are strongly preferred. Checks should be made payable to Zoo New England. **Please note that the Zoo does NOT invoice or bill for field trip fees, regardless of final group cost. Additionally the Zoo does not accept purchase orders.**

Can I get a refund if I overpaid?

Refunds for overpayments will not be issued, and cannot be used to pay for future visits. Overpayments will be processed as a donation to the Zoo.

Please note: Zoo New England memberships cannot be used for field trip admission.

Visit zoonewengland.org/map and start planning your visit today!

At the Zoo

Entry

Where will we enter the Zoo?

Zoo entry for field trips at Franklin Park Zoo is restricted to the Zebra Entrance ONLY. The Zebra Entrance is located on Franklin Park Road, off of Blue Hill Ave., by the intersection of Columbia Road.

Where can we park at the Zoo?

Parking at the Zoo is free. Buses may drop off students at the Zebra Entrance and then park along the street by the Golf Course. **Buses may not park in the Zoo parking lots**, as we do not have capacity for larger vehicles. Those arriving by car must park at the Zebra entrance lots.

Your bus driver must know when and where to meet you when your trip is over. You must have a contact number for your bus driver to easily locate them during pickup. Bus drivers are allowed to wait for you inside the Zoo during your trip, but any guests with them will have to pay full admission price.

Please note: *on days with higher group attendance, you may have to wait for your bus driver to get a pick-up spot.*

Lunches

What about lunches?

There is no storage available for lunches on Zoo grounds. Food can be purchased at the Zoo individually or through our lunch voucher program. Lunch vouchers offer a discounted rate for meals at the Zoo.*

Where can we have lunch?

There are a number of picnic areas available throughout the Zoo. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Private tents are available for rent, **but must be reserved ahead of time.***

*Additional fees apply

First Aid and Lost Guests at the Zoo

First Aid is provided by the Zoo's Security team. *If you require assistance or in case of emergency, please ask a Zoo staff member or volunteer to notify security.* Zoo Security officers can also assist if you become separated from a student in your group. To reunite you with your group more quickly, it is helpful to have students wearing similar outfits, or carrying cards with essential information and school contact phone numbers.

Many of our animals will hide if there is loud noise outside their enclosures. Please remind students to be respectful and to limit loud chatter for the best possible visit!



Accessibility Needs

Are wheelchairs available?

Yes, they are available for a \$5 rental fee at each Zoo entrance gate. You will need to provide a photo ID for the duration of use.

Is there a private space for someone who requires feeding assistance?

If someone requires a private space for nursing or to use a feeding tube, please let us know at the time of booking and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Is the Zoo sensory friendly?

Yes. Zoo New England is Sensory Inclusive Certified. Quiet Zones and Headphone Zones are designated throughout the Zoo.

We may have sensory bags available at the admissions booth. They are free to rent, but you will need to provide a photo ID for the admissions booth to hold during your rental period.

Restroom accommodations

We have family restrooms with adult changing stations available in Nature's Neighborhood.

Rules & Policies

Please adhere to the following policies while on Zoo grounds:

ALL students visiting as part of a school group must be directly supervised by adult chaperones regardless of students' ages.

Do not yell or throw things at the animals, bang on their exhibits, or otherwise harass them. These behaviors will not be tolerated.

Animals may have access to off-exhibit areas during the day and may not always be visible.

Do not feed the animals. All of the Zoo's animals are on special diets. Outside food and other objects can be harmful for them.

Refrain from running, shouting, pushing, or using offensive language.

Observe all posted signs, stay on marked pathways, and respect all barriers.

Smoking (including e-cigarettes and vaporizers) and use of other tobacco products are prohibited on Zoo property. Smoking is only permitted outside of Zoo gates.

Please help keep the Zoo clean by placing litter in the proper trash/recycling receptacles.

Do not attempt to retrieve any items that fall into an exhibit. Zoo staff will retrieve it for you.

If you become separated from a student in your group, please find a Zoo staff member or volunteer who will alert Zoo Security.

No items from animals (ex: feathers) may be taken from the Zoo.

Gorillas on the Line

Want your class to participate in conservation? Try holding a cell phone drive for old phones before your visit! Zoo New England supports Gorillas on the Line, a movement to preserve gorilla habitat by recycling coltan found in phones. We have a donation bin in the Tropical Forest!



Banned items

The following items are not permitted in the Zoo:

- Straws
- Glass bottles
- Bikes
- Scooters
- Skateboards
- Balloons
- Balls
- Frisbees
- Squirt guns
- Whistles
- Alcohol
- Loud speakers
- Pets*

*Pets are **NOT** allowed on Zoo grounds. Fully trained service animals trained to perform specific tasks are allowed.

Please don't leave pets in parked vehicles while visiting the Zoo.





Student Programs

Book an interactive student program to make your class visit WILD!

Additional fees apply

We have two types of student programs available. Please refer to our full programming at zoonewengland.org/discover/school-programs for student program descriptions and more details.

Education programs

These 30-minute programs allow students to meet an ambassador animal and learn about the specific topic of interest. After the 30-minute program, students are provided a self-guided activity that relates to the topic and allows them to apply it as they explore the zoo.

Zoo inquiries

These 60-minute programs are a more hands-on learning experience with the educators playing a more active role in the included activities. Students are participating in an activity rather than doing it after the program on their own. This 60-minute program also includes an animal encounter, but no self-guided activity is provided after the program. Due to materials and prep work required, these programs are currently at the Zoo only.

Program Guidelines

Due to the animals' availability or health, we cannot guarantee which animal ambassadors we will bring to each student program.

Animals we bring align with the topic and information covered. Participants may observe the animal ambassadors but are not permitted to touch.

We rely on chaperones and teachers to help maintain a quiet and calm space.

Class size information

We can accommodate groups of up to 30 participants, which includes students, teachers and chaperones.

Program Pricing

Education Program
At the zoo \$100
At your school \$140

Zoo Inquiry
At the zoo \$200
At your school N/A

MCAS

All student programs are aligned with age-appropriate life science MCAS standards.

Education programs

Program name	Grades
Zooper Senses	PreK - 2nd
Not so Scary Snakes	PreK - 2nd
Scales, Fur or Feathers?	PreK - 2nd
Hungry, Hungry Animals	PreK - 2nd
ZooKeepers	PreK - 2nd
Wild Neighbors	PreK - 2nd
Where in the World?	3rd - 5th
Animal's Got Talent	3rd - 5th
Endangered Animals	3rd - 5th
Circle of Life	3rd - 5th
Friend or Foe	6th - 8th
Animal Geneology	6th - 8th
Cretaceous Comparisons	6th - 8th

Zoo inquiries

Program name	Grades
Zoo Art	Any
Talking with Animals	3rd - 5th
Zoo Investigations: <i>Skeleton Clues</i>	3rd - 8th
Zoo Careers: <i>Animal Behavior</i>	6th - 8th
CSI: <i>Animal Kingdom</i>	6th - 8th
Zoo Careers: <i>Zoo Chef</i>	6th - HS
Zoo Careers: <i>Operant Conditioning & Positive Reinforcement</i>	High School

Please note that all education programs are reserved and paid for separately from entry admissions.





Bus drop off and main entrance (zebra entrance) for group leader check-in. Groups will wait on green spaces for their leaders to return.

Franklin Park Zoo

Day-of visit

What to expect

Arrival

Buses arrive at the Zebra entrance, just off of Blue Hill Ave. Drop-off is located at the sidewalk across from Peabody circle.

Zoo staff may direct the bus to move, and assist with drop-off ***Be alert and look for direction as the bus arrives. Staff will be present on the busiest days.*** Groups will wait while their leaders check in.

Zoo staff will provide information to bus drivers on authorized parking areas.

Entry

Buses unload and students will gather on the grass. Sidewalks should remain clear while groups are waiting. The group leader checks in at a table or the admissions booth.

Have your reservation and any payment ready at check-in. We do not refund overpayments. Follow the resources provided to best estimate your group cost, if any.

Once group leaders are checked in with their receipt, they may return to their group and enter through the secondary group gate if opened. Zoo staff will be standing by.

Your visit

Remember to review the rules. Groups violating the rules may be asked to leave.

Reminders

ALL students must be with adult chaperones regardless of students' ages.

No running, shouting, pushing, or using offensive language.

Do not yell or throw things at the animals, bang on their exhibits, or harass them. This ***will not*** be tolerated.

If you become separated from a student in your group, please find a Zoo staff member or volunteer who will alert Zoo Security.

Observe all posted signs, stay on marked pathways, and **respect all barriers**.

Do not feed the animals. All of the Zoo's animals are on special diets. Outside food and other objects can be harmful for them.

Do not attempt to retrieve any items that fall into an exhibit. Zoo staff will retrieve it for you.

Don't forget to prepare your students! It's recommended that they wear hats and have water on those warm sunny days.

