



Minnesota Zoo Field Trip

2024-2025 School Year



MINNESOTA ZOO

Minnesota Zoo Field Trip



Getting excited? Here's what to expect.

Our mission: To connect people, animals, and the natural world to save wildlife.

What can we do at the Zoo?

Visit animals on the trails.

Home to more than 4,700 animals, you'll tour along the Treetop Trail, Tropics Trail, Minnesota Trail, Northern Trail, Russia's Grizzly Coast, Discovery Bay (oceans), and the Family Farm (open seasonally). Observe the animals' natural behaviors in their replicated wild habitats.

Smart Fun!

Engaging in the activities around the Zoo is both fun and educational!



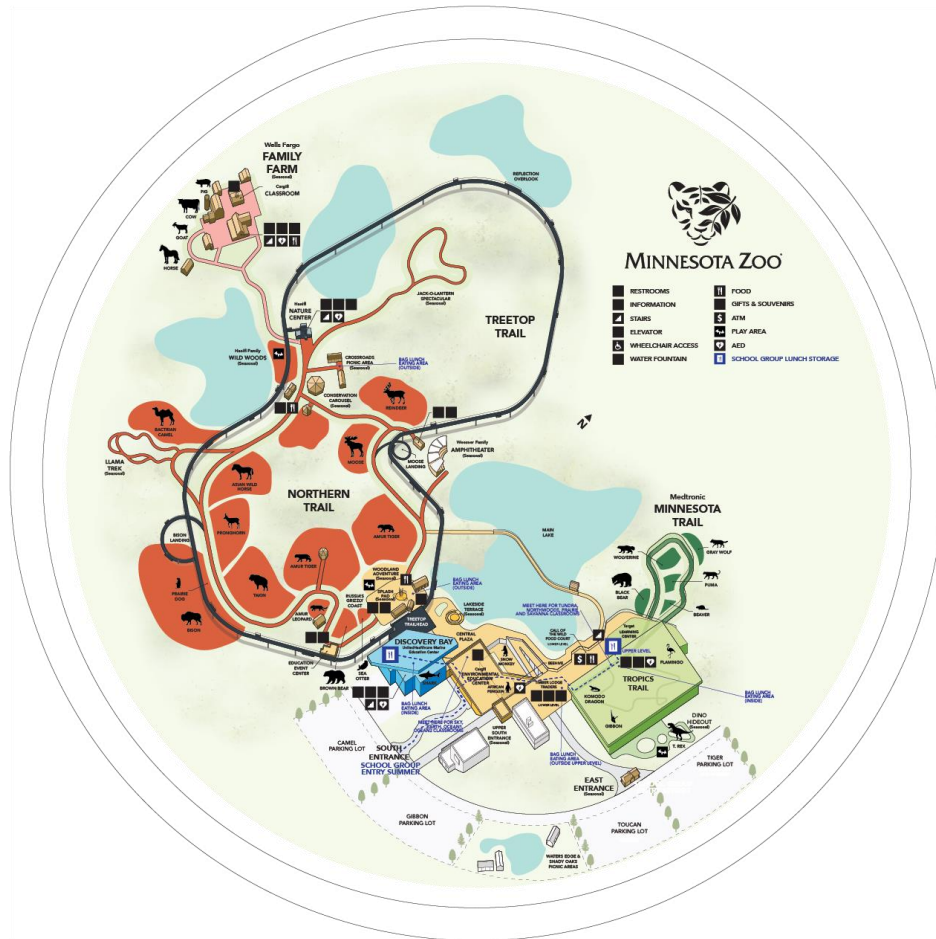
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Need a map?

Scan the QR code or go to

mnzoo.org/school-youth-group-expectations/



To reduce waste, paper maps are not currently available at the Zoo.

Download our apps!



Inclusive
MN Zoo4All



MN Zoo



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What to bring on your Field Trip

- ☐ Comfortable clothing and walking shoes. Wear layers! The Tropics building is 75 degrees, and it could be cold when you go outside.
- ☐ Lunch. Write your name clearly and pack foods that do not need to be cold. Re-useable lunch bags help save wildlife.
- ☐ Water bottle. There are several water bottle filling stations throughout the Zoo.
- ☐ Bring a pencil if you have an assignment to complete.
- ☐ A small drawstring bag or purse (optional).
- ☐ Money (optional). The Zoo's gift shop and food areas also offer Tap to Pay.
- ☐ Cell phone or camera (optional). You are responsible for these items and their proper use.



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Expectations

- Chaperones are responsible for students in their groups. Students grades Pre-k through 8th grade must always have an adult leader with student groups.
- Students, teachers, and chaperones are encouraged to be active participants during the field trip.
- Always remain on marked pathways, follow posted signs and instructions, and be respectful of plants and wildlife throughout the Zoo.
- You are in the animals' homes. Please use quiet voices, keep objects out of the habitats, and keep your hands off the glass.
- Feeding animals (unless part of a paid experience) is prohibited.
- Be respectful to all people who are also visiting the Zoo.
- Students may use outdoor play areas (seasonal) but must be accompanied by an adult chaperone or meet the posted age requirement.
- Use cameras and cell phones appropriately.
- No foul, hurtful, and/or discriminatory language.
- Any individual exhibiting or threatening violence against others may be escorted off property.
- Follow rules as if you were at school. Represent our school at your best.



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At school, the day of the field trip

- Bring only items needed for the trip.
- Greet chaperones.
- Help pack lunches in bags or boxes.
- Get into groups with your chaperones.
- Review Zoo expectations.
- Last minute instructions, plan where to meet in the Zoo at the end of the field trip.
- Make sure we have everyone that is going on the field trip.
- Use restrooms now if needed.
- Load buses and give any last-minute instructions to the bus driver.



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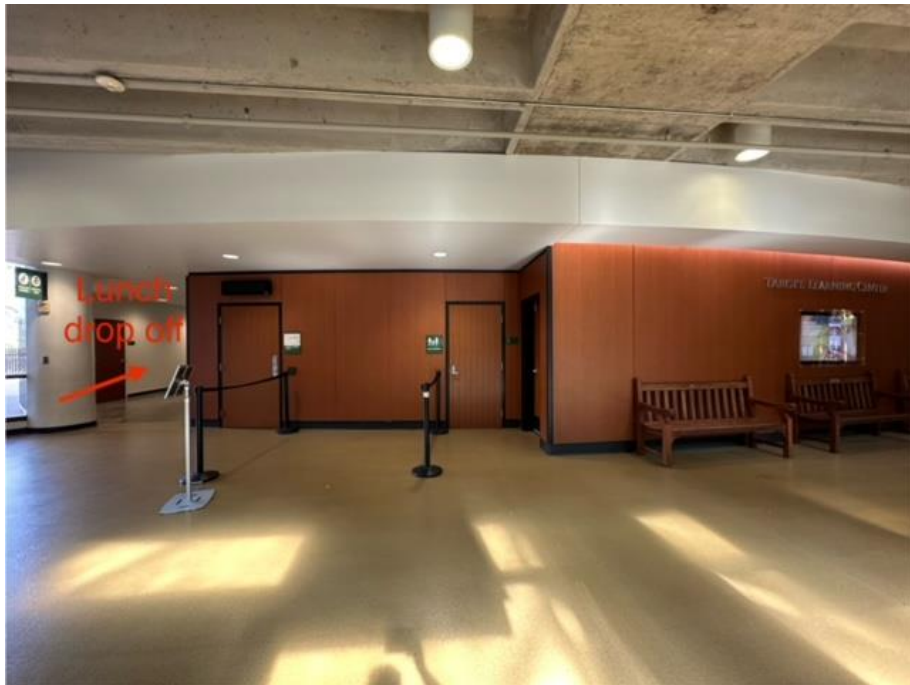
Arriving at the Zoo

- Bus Drop-off locations are seasonal
 - September – late April: South Entrance
 - Late April – June: East Entrance
- Make sure you have your belongings
- Stay with your group
- Drop off lunches next to the Target Learning Center in the Tropics storage area



Lunch storage in the Zoo

You will be directed to the lunch storage areas. There are bins located near the top of the Tropics Trail entrance next to the Target Learning Center. Jackets can be left there during the winter months.



Indoor eating space is limited. We encourage you to eat outdoors at the picnic tables when the weather is nice!

Ready to explore?

Start with the map. Choose a trail or follow the schedule from your teacher.



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What to expect on the trails

- Take your time viewing the animals. You might not have time to see everything, so enjoy the trails you choose.
- Animals could be moving, eating, or sleeping. Stop and watch at each habitat for a while, you will be surprised by what you see if you're quiet and patient.
- The signs at the Zoo will give you information about the animals you are seeing, and possibly answer questions you have. Take time to read them as you walk the pathways.
- Volunteers and staff enjoy answering student questions. Volunteers are wearing blue shirts.



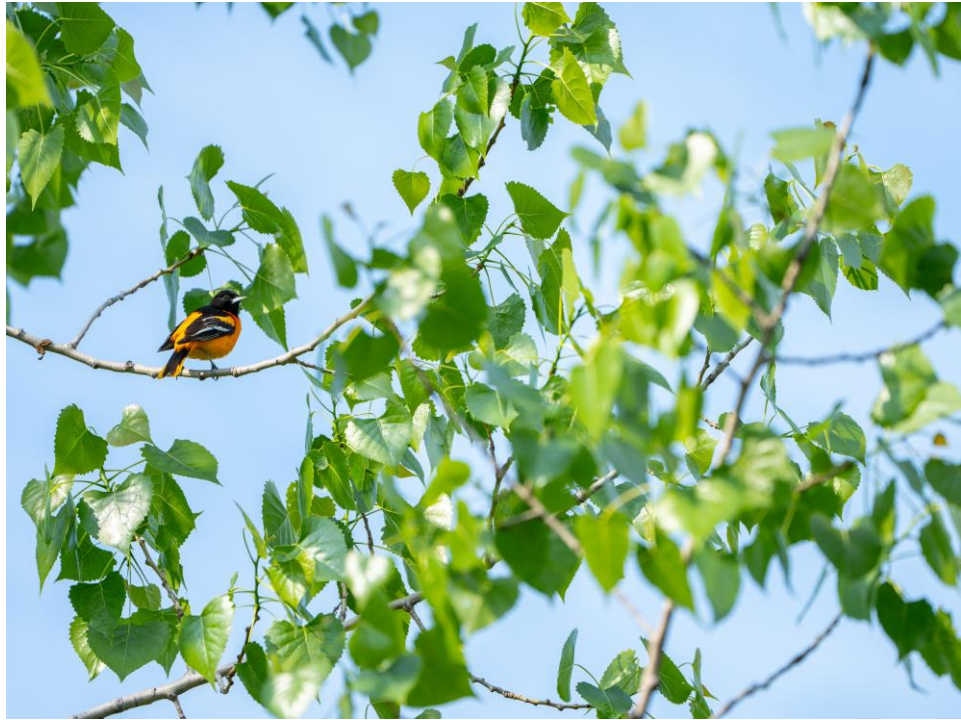
Explore the Zoo from the world's largest elevated walkway! Walk all, or some, of this 1.25-mile trail to view bison and camels. Sit amongst the trees as you look for wild animals that make their homes at the Zoo like geese, muskrats, turtles, and songbirds.



Treetop Trail



The Trail



Songbirds



Bactrian Camels

Stop by the penguin habitat to learn about the endangered African Penguins and find out what conservationists are doing to help save the species, and what you can do to help our feathered friends.



3M Penguins of the African Coast

Along the Trail you will experience a variety of Minnesota landscapes, ranging from views into a beaver pond, a walk alongside a northern forest glade and a bird-watching perch in the treetops. This trail features animals from Minnesota including river otters, gray wolves, and more! Here's a glimpse of some animals you will see....



Medtronic Minnesota Trail



Beaver



Puma



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Venture into the world of the rain forest where lush, green foliage and beautiful orchids envelop guests along a winding path. The beauty of unique wildlife first attract you, but the Tropics Trail also showcases several of the world's biodiversity "hotspots"—areas especially rich in species found nowhere else that are also at extreme risk of destruction.



Tropics Trail



Ring-tailed Lemurs



White-cheeked gibbon



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Rhinoceros Hornbill



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Sea turtle



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Minnesota is renowned for its long, cold winters—perfect for the residents of our Northern Trail. Majestic Amur tigers frolic in the snow or in their moat, depending on the weather. Woodland caribou and the stately moose display their ingenious adaptations for survival. A walk along the 3/4-mile trail provides the opportunity to enjoy the animals during all seasons.

Also visit the Penguins and Snow Monkeys in the South Entry.



Northern Trail



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Amur Tiger



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Takin (Tah-kin)

Reindeer



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Journey to one of the last true wilderness areas of the world; a vast place where the silence is broken only by the playful call of sea otters, where massive bears roam among steaming geysers and bubbling mud-pots, a land of stunning scenery including a rocky coastline, erupting volcanoes, and dense forests.



Russia's Grizzly Coast



Sea Otter



Grizzly Bear

Amur Leopard



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Witness the spectacular beauty of the deep in Discovery Bay: United Healthcare Marine Education Center. Over 1.1 million gallons of water provide a home for sharks, rays and other marine life. Guests can also touch sharks, sea stars, and sea anemones in an interactive estuary and tide pool.



Discovery Bay

Touch Experiences

- There are two areas where you can touch animals in Discovery Bay. Please follow these rules if you plan to participate in this experience:
 - Respect staff, guests, and animals when at the touch pools
 - Please limit the touch tank experience to groups of 10 students so everyone can have the opportunity to touch a shark or anemone.
 - Chaperones should always monitor groups.
 - Zoo staff reserve the right to close touch tanks if rules are not being followed.



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Seahorse



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Sand tiger shark



Sea lion

Wow, the day has gone quickly. Time to head back to school.

- ☐ Meet at our preselected meeting location.
- ☐ Load buses where we were dropped off.
- ☐ Have a safe trip back to school.
- ☐ Thank your chaperones for coming with today.
- ☐ Thank your bus driver when you leave the bus.



What can you do to help the animals and the environment we share?

- Get outside, be active and explore the outdoors each and every day.
- Recycle when you can at school and at home.
- Carefully pick up trash when they see it and put it in a garbage can.
- Learn more about the world's animals and plants.
- Participate in a conservation program at our school or in your community.
- Ride your bike or walk instead of drive.
- Ideas?



We hope you enjoy
your day at the
Minnesota Zoo!



Thank you for your support and help in supporting the Minnesota Zoo's mission to connect people, animals and the natural world to save wildlife.