



MINNESOTA ZOO®

EVENT RENTALS

FAQs

CAN WE BRING IN OUR OWN CATERER?

No, the Minnesota Zoo has an exclusive on-site event caterer who is contracted for all food & beverage services provided on the property which ensures maximum efficiency as the layout and logistics of our venue are quite unique. Popular options include our set menus, but we can be flexible in customizing a menu to your taste and budget.

IS THERE A FOOD & BEVERAGE MINIMUM?

During our peak season, we require a minimum spending on food & beverage, which excludes service charges, events fees, and tax. This amount is dependent on the facility rented. If this minimum is outside of your budget, we are more flexible during the off-peak season.

IMAY I TAKE HOME UNCONSUMED FOOD & BEVERAGE AFTER MY EVENT?

We do not allow any food or beverage to be brought onto the property without prior written approval from our on-site event catering team. We also do not allow any food or beverage, including alcohol, to be removed from the premises by the event host, their guests, vendors, or agents due to health and safety codes and/or other restrictions.

CAN WE HAVE ALCOHOL?

Yes, alcohol is permitted for events held at the Minnesota Zoo. However, all beverage services will be handled by our on-site event caterer, as they hold the liquor license.

IS THERE A SECURITY CHARGE?

Yes, a security charge will apply for groups with 500 or more guests. Additionally, if alcohol will be served at your event, an off-duty police officer will be hired by our on-site event caterer at an additional charge to the client.

DO I NEED TO PURCHASE ADMISSION TICKETS?

If your event is during operating hours, then admission tickets are required; however, these tickets will be offered at a discounted event rate, and they will expire at the end of the calendar year if not used on the day of the event.

ARE THERE PARKING FEES?

Yes, but the fee for parking is included in your purchase of private event admission tickets for your group.

WHAT TIME CAN MY EVENT START AND END?

General event windows are 10:00am – 4:00pm and 6:00pm – 10:00pm; however, these can be adjusted. Adding on hours to these windows is also possible for an additional fee.

WHAT DOES MY FACILITY RENTAL INCLUDE?

We make it easy! Your facility rental includes in-house tables, chairs, set up, and clean up. Any requests for furniture or quantities exceeding what we already own may require an additional rental fee. For all inclusions, please ask your sales manager.

WHEN CAN WE SET UP OUR EVENT?

You will have a scheduled set-up window that will be determined based on the contracted event time. Alternatively, if we have no other events happening before your own, we may be able to arrange a set-up time further in advance. Please discuss options with your sales manager at the time of booking.

ARE THERE DECORATING PARAMETERS?

Because the Zoo is a unique venue, we encourage you to take advantage of the décor that is already in place. Most clients have found that keeping decorations to table-top centerpieces adds a nice touch to the event and is just enough décor. Please note that all flowers and plants must be supplied by a licensed florist or wholesaler. Flowers and plants cannot come from home gardens or farmer's markets. All candles must be encased in glass. Live goldfish, mylar shreds, confetti, glitter, balloons, streamers, rice, birdseed, gel candles, and liquid bubbles are not allowed on Zoo grounds or in its facilities. All décor must be pre-approved by your sales manager.

HOW FAR IN ADVANCE CAN WE RESERVE ONE OF YOUR FACILITIES?

Space requests and reservations are allowed up to 547 days (1.5 years), from the event date.

HOW CAN I CONFIRM MY EVENT?

To confirm your event, we require 1.) a signed event agreement, and 2.) a deposit which totals 50% of your Facility Rental plus 25% of all additional event charges. When we receive both requirements, your event will be secured in our event calendar. Until both requirements are received, we reserve the right to accept other offers for the date and space(s) you are considering for your event. Please ask about our deposit schedule if booking 90-days or less from your event date.

MAY I BRING IN MY OWN VENDOR(S)?

We do allow limited outside vendors to be utilized for private events. However, you must seek approval in writing from your sales manager before hiring an outside vendor to provide a service on the Minnesota Zoo property. Without authorization, outside vendors will not be permitted onsite whether they were contracted before you selected us as your venue or not. All outside vendors must agree to our Vendor Procedures to receive approval and must also provide a Certificate of Additional Insured. Outside catering and beverage vendors will not be allowed.

DO YOU HAVE AUDIO/VISUAL EQUIPMENT ONSITE THAT WE CAN USE?

We have limited A/V resources on-site depending on the room you choose. Some items may have additional charges. Please ask your event sales representative for more details.

WHAT TYPE OF ENTERTAINMENT DOES THE ZOO ALLOW?

For the safety of our animals, entertainment allowances will vary based on the facility, and music levels will be strictly monitored. If interested in hiring outside vendors to provide lighting, please note we will allow par can lighting. However, fog or bubble machines, strobe, laser, and police lights are not permitted.

WHAT PARTS OF THE ZOO CAN WE SEE DURING OUR EVENT?

Events held during operating hours will require the purchase of an event admission ticket for your guests' entry, so you will have access to all parts of the Zoo that are open on the date of your visit. Evening events will take place after the Zoo is closed. Therefore, the only area you and your guests will have access to is the area you have rented for the event.

As a condition of hosting your event with us, it is essential that you understand that our animal exhibits are a living collection. Animals may or may not be viewable at any given time due to changes in the animal collection, weather and season, actions to promote the health and well-being of the animals, and the animals' choices.

Event Rentals

ROOM NAME	TIME FRAMES	SEATED	COCKTAIL RECEPTION	RENTAL RATES
DISCOVERY BAY GREAT HALL	1-HOUR TIMESLOT, 2 HOUR MINIMUM (6PM - 10PM)	250	400	600/HOUR FRIDAY - SUNDAY 500/HOUR MONDAY - THURSDAY
TROPICS TRAIL & PLAZA*	1-HOUR TIMESLOT, 2 HOUR MINIMUM (6PM - 10PM)	175	400	700/HOUR FRIDAY - SUNDAY 600/HOUR MONDAY - THURSDAY
MINNESOTA LODGE & TRAIL*	1-HOUR TIMESLOT, 2 HOUR MINIMUM (6PM - 10PM)	80	100	600/HOUR FRIDAY - SUNDAY 500/HOUR MONDAY - THURSDAY
MINNESOTA LODGE	1-HOUR TIMESLOT, 2 HOUR MINIMUM (6PM - 10PM)	80	100	400/HOUR FRIDAY - SUNDAY 300/HOUR MONDAY - THURSDAY
CROSSROADS PAVILION	2 HOUR RENTAL (11AM - 2PM OR 2PM - 4PM)	250		750 SATURDAY & SUNDAY 600 MONDAY - FRIDAY
CROSSROADS PAVILION A OR B	2 HOUR RENTAL (11AM - 2PM OR 2PM - 4PM)	125		450 SATURDAY & SUNDAY 300 MONDAY - FRIDAY
SHADY OAKS PAVILION	2 HOUR RENTAL (6PM - 10PM OR 2PM - 4PM)	250 +		1000 SATURDAY & SUNDAY 750 MONDAY - FRIDAY

**Trail access will be available to guests from the event start time through 8pm*

ROOM NAME	TIME FRAMES	CLASSROOM	BOARD ROOM	U SHAPED	RENTAL RATES
EDUCATION EVENT CENTER	HALF DAY (4 HOURS) FULL DAY (8 HOURS)	45	20	24	400 HALF DAY 700 FULL DAY

Admissions

For rental of CrossRoads Picnic Pavilion and Education Event Center, discounted Zoo admission tickets are required. Anytime tickets are valid for the calendar year and can be used on any date for regular Zoo admission. Anytime tickets are non-refundable and non-exchangeable.

Parking is included.

Event Entertainment

Please contact your sales manager for pricing.

FACE PAINTING

HENNA TATTOOS

GREEN SCREEN PHOTO OR VIP PHOTO

CAROUSEL RIDES

ADDITIONAL ENTERTAINMENT OPTIONS

Additional Services

Please contact your sales manager for pricing.

LINEN RENTALS

DÉCOR RENTALS

AUDIO VISUAL EQUIPMENT

CHINA SERVICE

FRESH FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

AND MUCH MORE...



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