

ANIMAL ADVENTURES OUTREACH PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions



DALLAS ZOO

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What is an Animal Adventures Outreach program?

This exciting, 30- to 45-minute program features animals from around the world and is presented by our professionally trained staff. It can be tailored to enhance your curriculum needs. Presentations are safe, interactive, and designed for a variety of audiences. We offer several presentation options: a stage show, walk-around experience or booth/stationary display.

What is the difference between the various programs?

- The stage show is a more formal presentation where animals will be brought out one at a time and the speaker will talk about each animal. The animals can be walked around the audience during this presentation.
- The walk-around experience is needed during less formal events (wedding reception, business function). One to two animals will be walked around at a time during the event to meet the guests.
- The booth/stationary display is most appropriate when there will be many guests moving around in an area and allows the guests to come up to our table and meet then animals informally. This allows for people to come and go and ask questions. If you anticipate that your audience will want to stay for a longer period of time, a stage show will be more appropriate.

What animals will visit?

We have a variety of mammals, birds, and reptiles that are specifically trained and acclimated for outreach programs. We cannot guarantee specific animals; however, we will try to accommodate your requests. Please let us know if your group has any curriculum interests (studying specific types of animals, regions, or topics), and we will do our best to incorporate these animals and themes into our program.

Can the audience touch the animals?

Touching is never guaranteed and is always at the discretion of the Zoo staff based on a variety of factors including audience size, audience age, animal demeanor, etc. However, we typically provide some interactive opportunities for audience participation.

Is this program available only to schools in Dallas?

No. We can “Bring the Zoo” to many types of schools, community, corporate, and media events. The following outlines our pricing for our program:

City of Dallas & Dallas County	\$350
Up to 40 miles from Zoo	\$400*
41-60 miles from Zoo	\$450
60+ miles from Zoo	Call for Quote
2nd Consecutive program	\$200

*City of Plano Ordinance Fee-All programs in Plano must be scheduled at least two (2) weeks in advance of the program date.

How can I schedule an Animal Adventures Outreach Program?

Reservation forms must be received at least two (2) weeks in advance. Please be aware that our Animal Adventures program is very popular and dates fill up quickly. During our busy season (March-September),

reservation forms should be sent in as early as possible to secure a date. Please be sure to include several date options on the form as program availability is limited and our schedule fills quickly. Your completed form should be emailed to AnimalAdventures@dallaszoo.com or faxed to 469-554-7455. Your reservation is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation email from the Dallas Zoo. It is recommended that you follow up to make sure your reservation form was received. Please provide a primary contact name and number who will be at the program, so Zoo staff can coordinate with them upon arrival.

Are food and drink allowed during the program?

No. We ask that no food or drinks be allowed during the program.

Does a teacher/adult need to be present during the program?

Yes, we ask that a teacher/adult is present and monitoring audience members at all times. The Zoo may cancel this program at any time if it is determined that the environment has become unsafe.

Can we request that a program be done outside?

Yes, we can present programs indoors and outdoors; however several factors must be considered, including temperature, shading, and noise levels. Outdoor programs require that our climate-controlled van be parked directly next to the presentation area. If the program is held during hot weather, the presentation area must provide shade. During weather extremes (excessive heat or cold, rain, snow or windy conditions), programs may be cancelled if a suitable backup area is not available.

What do I need to provide?

Our staff will bring everything necessary to present the program. Please note if a sound system is available for our use, or if we need to bring one with us. The presentation area must have plenty of space for two tables, our presenters, and the animals. We prefer a ten foot buffer between the animal display tables and the audience. Auditoriums, cafeterias, and gyms are typically the best places for programs. Please note that the animals must be safely housed where program guests cannot access them during the presentation. The presentation area should be cleared for staff to bring in animals and equipment at least 30 minutes prior to the start time of the program.

When will the Animal Adventures Outreach staff arrive?

Our team requires little set up time for the program. Typically, they will arrive 15-20 minutes before the scheduled start time. Please reserve a parking area that is easily accessible to an entrance area near the program. During extreme weather, unloading **MUST** occur close to an entrance area. After unloading, our van may be moved to a different parking location; however, it must stay within a reasonable distance of the program area in case of an emergency.

Are there any other special considerations of which we should be aware?

Yes. Loud noises can scare our animals, so please refrain from having music, bands, or other loud activities going on in the area. In addition, costumed characters, inflatable bounce houses, or other large moving objects should not be in the area. Please note that for the safety of our animals, other animals (SPCA, petting zoos, class or personal pets, service animals, etc.) are not allowed in close proximity to our animals (must be a distance of at least 75 feet/25 yards).

The Dallas Zoo and Children's Aquarium at Fair Park reserve the right to change these programs and policies without notice.