



Dallas Zoo Night Hike and Overnight Guidelines and FAQ

What To Bring

Each person attending a **Night Hike or Overnight** at the Dallas Zoo should prepare to be outdoors for the programs. Flashlights (it gets dark) and a refillable water bottle are encouraged (no glass). Please be sure to wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes, and weather –appropriate clothing. Electronic equipment, aside from cameras, are not allowed. While we do allow adults to carry cell phones, we ask that you refrain from using them unless it is an emergency.

Each person attending an **Overnight** should bring a sleeping bag, pillow, and only necessary overnight toiletries. You may bring a yoga style or foam mat. Shower facilities are not available. Twin size air mattress are only allowed if sleeping indoors, and they must be self-inflating. Medications and necessary medical equipment should be brought and maintained by the individual participant.

Tips For A Pleasant Experience

- Only bring what you can carry. You will be spending the evening on a walking tour of the zoo. If doing an overnight, sleeping bags and mats will be loaded into Zoo wagons, if one is available, for transport to the sleeping location prior the start of the program.
- Each person attending the overnight needs a sleeping bag and pillow. Additional items, such as mattresses, mat pads, and blankets are NOT provided by the zoo. Please bring what you will need to ensure a comfortable night's sleep in nature.
- Power outlets are not accessible.
- You will be sleeping in a shared sleeping space. Please leave items of value at home.
- Don't forget!
 - Flashlight
 - Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, etc.)
 - Water bottle
 - Comfortable shoes and clothing for the season
 - Necessary Medications and/or devices
 - Insect repellent

- Smoking and alcohol consumption are not allowed. We reserve the right to search any coolers you bring into the Zoo. If you are found with alcohol, you may be asked to leave the program WITH your group, and your overnight will NOT be refunded.
- Leave your pets at home. We have plenty of animals to experience here at the Dallas Zoo.
- Eat dinner prior your arrival at the Dallas Zoo.

Reservations

Reservations must be made at least two (2) weeks in advance. Night Hikes and Overnights are not exclusive to your group and we may book multiple groups in one night (maximum of 50 participants per night). We require all participants to be preregistered. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee that subsequent requests for additional guests to your group can be accommodated. For large groups, we will accept a minimum deposit for 15 participants although we do ask you provide an accurate estimate of your total headcount at registration.

Group Leaders who make the reservation will receive a confirmation email from the Education Office. It is the responsibility of the Group Leader to turn in all required forms and payment. The Group Leader is responsible for notifying all chaperones of the policies and procedures, program details and itinerary, items needed for a comfortable evening, and items that are allowed and not allowed.

Cancellation Policy

The Dallas Zoo and Children's Aquarium at Fair Park reserves the right to cancel or change any program for reasons we deem appropriate. Programs that have not met the minimum number of participants within two weeks of the scheduled program date may be cancelled. In the event that we cancel your program, a full refund will be issued and individuals will be contacted directly. If you cancel a program with the Dallas Zoo or Children's Aquarium at Fair Park, a program credit may be issued based on circumstance. Reschedule requests must be received in writing at least 2 weeks in advance of your scheduled program date. No credits or refunds will be issued for changes/cancellations made within two weeks of your scheduled program, for any amount under \$20, or for no-show groups.

Weather Policy

Night Hikes and Overnights will be held rain or shine. Cancellations based on extreme or severe weather will be decided by Zoo staff no later than 3:00 pm on the day of the

event. If severe weather occurs during a program, alternate programming will be done indoors. No refunds will be provided. Due to unpredictable weather, sleeping areas cannot be guaranteed.

Check-In/Check-Out

Check-in time is from 6:30-7 p.m. at the main entrance. The main gates will be closed and locked by security. For security reasons, and activities planned for the program, late arrivals and early releases cannot be accommodated.

Food/Snacks

Please eat dinner prior arrival at the Dallas Zoo. A snack will be provided in the late evening. Water bottles are allowed. If staying for an Overnight program, breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m. (7:00 a.m. at the Children's Aquarium at Fair Park). Please plan to be awake and ready in time for breakfast. Outside food and drink is not allowed.

In Case of Emergency

All program participants will need to have a signed medical release form. Please be aware that education staff will only have minor first aid supplies available, and they are not allowed to perform any treatment. All medications and first aid are to be administered by the group chaperone. In the event of an emergency, the Dallas Zoo will contact emergency services, and the Dallas Zoo is not responsible for the cost of any medical treatment.

Chaperone Guidelines

Chaperones must accompany participants throughout the entire Night Hike and Overnight experience, including all walks, tours, and activities. Please ensure that there is a sufficient number of chaperones to supervise your group at all times. Chaperones are responsible for the behavior of all participants in their group. We require one (1) adult chaperone (21 years old and up) per five (5) children registered. Review the Dallas Zoo's [Code of Conduct](#) to ensure a pleasant experience for both humans and animals.

Sleeping Accommodations

Please be aware that the Overnight program utilizes outdoor areas, and areas near animal habitats. Be prepared to experience the sounds, sights, and smells of nature. Sleeping spaces will be assigned based on several factors, including availability, group size, and staffing, and are not exclusive to your group. Groups should be prepared to share sleeping spaces. Groups of more than 25 participants may be split into separate

sleeping spaces. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee separate sleeping spaces for groups with co-ed chaperones and youth participants.

Special Needs

Please contact the Education Office for any special needs for participants of the program. Please be aware if the Education Office is not aware of any special circumstances, education staff will be unable to provide special accommodations at time of the program. The Education Office is open Monday-Friday during regular Zoo hours. Contact us at Education@DallasZoo.com or 469.554.7300.

Animal Experiences

Sightings of some animals cannot be guaranteed. Some animals may not be viewable in the evening due to protocols followed by the Animal Operations staff. The Night Hike and Overnight programs do offer the opportunity for live animal presentations by Education staff. Animals presented may vary at each encounter.