



MINNESOTA ZOO  
Changing how you see the world

## Before you arrive:

- Check your confirmation sheet. If you have any questions or need to make changes call the scheduler at 952-431-9218.
- Field trip resources available on line at [www.mnzoo.org/schools](http://www.mnzoo.org/schools) view the pre-field trip information and classroom activities. Maps, schedules, animal fact sheets and games are on line at [www.mnzoo.org](http://www.mnzoo.org) . **This year the Minnesota Zoo is undergoing building construction at the Coral Reef exhibits on the Tropics Trail and the end of the Minnesota trail (the trails are open).**
- Please review this information and distribute any schedules to your chaperones to review before you leave your school.
- Consider having adhesive tags for your students and chaperones with your school name for identification while at the zoo.
- We require a minimum of one adult chaperone for every 15 students. Chaperones are required to stay with students at all times.
- When meeting at the end of the day please select a gathering place away from the Zoo entry doorway. The MN Trail lodge, Tropics Trail plaza, Snow Monkey viewing hallway, Upper Plaza or Discovery Bay are good locations to gather large groups before you head to the exit. Let your students/adults know where this is before you leave school.

## Arriving at the Zoo:

- When you arrive, have the bus drivers drop the students at the entrance or follow signs for “school bus” drop off at special times of the year. Please arrange for pick-up at the same place you were dropped off.
- ★ Be prepared to check in with Guest Services. The lead teacher must have an **exact** count of the number of students and adults & pay **all Zoo fees** at the time of admission. Make one payment by check (payable to Minnesota Zoo), cash, billing, or school charge card. Please review these costs and make any adjustments to your total.

### 2011-2012 School Year

Admission Grades K-6 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 5.00
Admission Grades 7th-12 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 7.00
Admission Preschool	\$ 9.75
Admission Teachers/Chaperones (one free person with each 5 paid students)	free
Admission Additional Adults- paid for by lead teacher	\$ 10.00
Admission Adults checking in individually	\$18.00
Members (collect a copy of the membership card)	free
Bus Parking per bus (or car parking \$5.00)	\$ 10.00
Monorail, class, or special events per person (prescheduled)	\$ 3.00

- Adults should not check in separately, please collect admission fee from adults that need to pay and make one payment, including any parents parking fees.

## Lunch:

- We would like you to encourage students to bring recyclable lunch containers instead of disposable items to reduce waste.
- Put lunch containers in sturdy boxes or brown paper grocery bags and label with your school’s name. When you arrive at the Zoo, our staff will direct you to the lunch area. Your chaperones will have to carry the boxes to the lunch location, do not pack them too heavy. Chaperones may also carry lunches in backpacks during the day. You may eat at any picnic table on a first-come basis additional seating on the Tropic Trail plaza.
- Food service at the Zoo is available at the Call of The Wild Café and the Wild Java for coffee and snacks. Call 952-953-0667 for questions on ordering food.

## Zoo Store:

- Students, accompanied by a chaperone, are welcome to visit the Zoo gift store in small groups. To speed up your visit, we suggest you shop before noon and allow time for check out. You may pre-purchase items by calling 952-431-3090.

## Great Clips Imax Theatre:

- Upper South Walkway: Show times available at the IMAX box office or the Guest Services Desk. For reservations call 952-997-9714. Groups attending IMAX must check in at **both** the MN Zoo and Imax, separate payment is required.

## **Tips for an enjoyable visit:**

- Plan to arrive at least five-ten minutes before any scheduled class, tour or monorail program time.
- Be aware that during inclement weather the Monorail, animal exhibits and other facilities may have adjusted schedules. Please check with Guest Services at the entry on inclement weather days for daily changes.
- Guest Service staff is available to assist you at the main entry or volunteers at the desk in the Minnesota Trail lodge.
- It takes 5-7 hours to adequately see the entire zoo. Unless you have that much time, don't try to see it all. We ask chaperones to stay with the students at all times and encourage students to spend time observing the animals along the trails you have selected.
- Volunteers are located throughout the zoo to help you enjoy your visit, stop and ask them any questions you have. Volunteers will be at the benches along the Zoo trails with interpretive artifacts throughout the day, schedules vary.
- Check at the entry desk for up-to-the-minute information or see our web site at [www.mnzoo.org](http://www.mnzoo.org) the day before you arrive.

## **Daily Schedule**

**ZOO HOURS 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.**

The Zoo offers unscheduled animal enrichment demonstrations at various exhibits during the day. You may be surprised by a talk or feeding.

**Tropics Trail:** Travel through the lush “rain forest” featuring tropical hot spots –endangered regions in the world. Encounter one of our newer Africa area exhibits – Faces of the African Forest. You will see animals like Colobus monkeys, tapir, gibbons, and tropical birds that make the Zoo their home. Coral Reef exhibit is currently closed for renovation.

**Minnesota Trail:** Begin discovering animals from around Minnesota at the warm and welcoming lodge with the smaller animal favorites, like turtles, frogs and salamanders. Then along the trail experience a variety of Minnesota animals and landscapes ranging from views into a beaver pond, a walk alongside a northern forest glade with animals from wolves to river otters as well as a bird-watching perch in the treetops. End back at the lodge and warm up by the fireplace. Animal demos take place daily, check the schedule at the lodge desk. The last exhibit on the MN trail is under construction this year.

**South Entry/Penguin Plaza:** Experience our social animals; Chinese macaques with little ones born this summer, and the newest exhibit **3M Penguins of the African Coast**, featuring our colony of penguins in their exhibit resembling Boulder Beach, South Africa. Penguin feeding 10:00 am and 3:00 pm. Go to [www.dothewaddle.com](http://www.dothewaddle.com) and get your students up and moving!

**Discovery Bay:** Thousands of gallons of water make homes for sharks, coral and dolphins. Come see the sea life that make there home here. Dolphin daily enrichment and feeding sessions at 10:00 am and 12:00 daily. They can be viewed from the upper amphitheater and lower viewing windows. Shark talks Mondays & Wednesdays at 11:30 am.

**Northern Trail:** Amur Tigers, caribou, Mexican wolves and more species spend all seasons outdoors on our northern walk.

**Russia's Grizzly Coast:** Experience Russia's far Eastern coast, this region is located on the 45 parallel (just like Minnesota) See the similarities and differences as you find sea otters, brown bears, leopards and wild boar. Trail begins from the Central Plaza. Sea Otter and Brown Bear enrichment schedule varies.

**Target Learning Center:** See amazing birds in flight during the 30 min World of Birds program. Located in the new Target Learning Center theater, near the MN and Tropics trail. Shows M,W,TH and F at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm, October 17 – April. Step into the theater at other times to view ZooTV, video programs about life at the Zoo.

**Wells Fargo Family Farm:** Rare farm animals are the highlight of this working farmstead. Farm is open seasonally April 1 – end of October.

Please check the web site at [www.mnzoo.org](http://www.mnzoo.org) for up to the minute information, schedules may vary.

**ENJOY YOUR DAY AT THE MINNESOTA ZOO**