

Overnight Adventures: Frequently Asked Questions

Who can attend?

Overnight Adventures are designed for ages 6 and up. We welcome scout troops, birthday parties, school groups, and other groups. Programs are also available for teen and adult groups.

How many people can attend?

Adventure capacity is 60 persons. We are unable to accommodate larger groups due to fire safety regulations. Please consider booking two programs if your group has more than 60. For Girl Scouts of Southeast Florida and Boy Scouts of America Gulf Stream Council events, we strongly recommend that you book your entire group at one time. All privately booked programs have a minimum of 15 children. At least one adult per ten children is required.

What if my group is below the required minimum of 15 children?

The minimum cost to hold an overnight program is \$600.00 if you have less than the 15 child minimum.

What should I bring?

- Sleeping bag and pillow
- Bug spray
- Camera
- Change of clothes
- Personal toiletries (toothbrush, hairbrush, etc.)
- Flashlight (red lights preferred)
- Reusable water bottle

You may also choose to bring an air mattress, cot, or sleeping pad. However, please remember that space is limited. Single-sizes are preferred, but consider sharing with your child if you have a larger size so that we may accommodate everyone comfortably.

What should I *not* bring?

Please do not bring anything you cannot carry. We also discourage portable electronics.

What should I wear?

Dress comfortably for walking. Close-toed shoes are recommended. Dress appropriately for the weather as outdoor activities are planned rain or shine.

Where will we sleep?

Groups will sleep in either the Pioneer House in the Florida section of the Zoo or the Peggy S. Brown Special Events Pavilion. Sleeping location may depend on group size, availability, and weather. Both sleeping areas have electricity and outlets available to be shared by guests. Sleeping areas may not be completely screened in. **Sleeping areas may not have air-conditioning.** Shower facilities are *not* available.

What do we eat?

Pizza will be provided in the evening program. Breakfast may include choices such as cereal, oatmeal, fruit, coffee, and juice. Participants with food allergies are encouraged to bring food that is safe for them. You are welcome to bring additional snacks.

What will we do?

Program activities may include: up-close animal encounters, night tours of the Zoo, scavenger hunts, crafts, games, and other themed activities.

How long does the program last?

Your instructor will meet you at 6:30 PM. Please be on time as the Zoo is closed and there will not be admission staff on duty to allow entry to late-comers. Once the program has begun, **you will not be able to exit and/or reenter the Zoo** unless there is an emergency. The program will conclude at 8:30 AM.

Who will be at the Zoo throughout the night?

A member of our education team will stay with your group in the assigned sleeping area throughout the night. We may also have members of our carefully screened volunteer program spending the night. Our staff and volunteers may be male or female, so please call us at 561-533-0887 ext. 229 if your group or organization has special rules regarding co-ed sleeping arrangements. Security guards are on duty throughout the night.

What if it is raining?

Overnight adventures happen rain or shine. Your overnight will only be cancelled in cases of severe or hazardous weather. Your group will be contacted by 4:00 PM on the night of your program only if the impending weather is expected to be severe. No refunds will be issued unless the program is cancelled by Zoo management.

Can I bring my own birthday decorations, cake, etc.?

For the safety of our animals, balloons are not permitted inside the zoo, but you may bring other decorations for your party. Any treat bags or other gift bags should be distributed upon exiting the Zoo in the morning. Please contact us at 561-533-0887 ext. 229 to discuss these policies in detail.

Can I request special programming to earn a specific Girl Scout or Boy Scout badge?

Yes, we can create custom programs for your group! Please give us at least 4 weeks' notice, and be prepared to provide badge requirements.

Do overnight programs meet any educational standards?

Our "Creatures of the Night," "Zoo Clues," and "Predator Prowl" programs have been designed to meet state standards. These standards are available at: <http://www.palmbeachzoo.org/group-overnights>.

What is the payment policy?

A \$150 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve a date. Full payment is due two weeks prior to the program date.

What if I need to reschedule or cancel my program?

Rescheduling is subject to availability. There is a \$25 change-of-date fee and the request must be made in writing at least two weeks in advance.

Cancellation requests made in writing for programs paid in full prior to the two week deadline will be refunded less the \$150 deposit. No refunds will be issued if the program is cancelled less than two weeks prior to the program date.

Programs that are not paid in full by the deadline will be automatically cancelled.

Weather-related refunds will only be made if the program is cancelled by Zoo management.

Are there any discounts available to visit the Zoo after our program has concluded?

We offer 50% off the cost of admission for those who would like to enjoy the Zoo during the day. Please note that this one-time discount is only valid after the morning portion of your program has concluded. You must exit the Zoo when the program concludes and will be allowed to reenter upon our public opening at 9:00 AM.

Please notify your overnight instructor if you are interested in returning to the Zoo after your overnight to receive a discounted admission card. You must present this card in order to receive your discount.

Please contact us at education@palmbeachzoo.org with any other questions.