



SCOUT PROGRAM FAQS



Do parents/chaperones need to attend the scout program?

Yes. The zoo educator will take care of the teaching and leading the activity portions of the program. However, we ask that 1 adult per every 5 children stays with the group for the full class time to be available to help with crowd control, bathroom breaks, etc. This is to make sure we fit in everything we need during the two-hour class.

Does our group visit ALL the animals at the zoo during our program?

No. Each scout program contains a meet-and-greet portion, which includes meeting 4 or more animals up-close in our classroom. Many programs also contain a zoo tour where the group sees a portion of the zoo exhibit animals. In order for us to fit in all requirements, we are not able to tour the entire zoo. If your group would like to see all the animals the zoo has to offer, please build in some time before or after your scheduled class.

Can siblings come to a program?

YES! Please include them in your total when booking your program. If siblings attend the badge-in-a-day class, the same fee that applies to the scouts will apply to the siblings. This allows sibling attendees to enjoy the same animal experiences, crafts, and/or games as the scouts.

Do we receive the patch at the end of our badge-in-a-day class?

No. Unfortunately, the zoo is unable to provide the physical patches for the scouts. Those must be provided by the leader of the group.

What should we wear?

Dress for the weather! Our programs occur rain or shine. Since we offer scout programs year-round, plan to bring: boots, a raincoat or umbrella, jacket/hat/mittens, and whatever else you need to be comfortable that time of year. (Some groups decide to bring a change of clothes or footwear.) Typically, we will start the first hour of the class inside, and then approximately 30+ minutes are spent outside in the zoo.

Please encourage your group to **wear closed-toed shoes. We take a walk during the zoo tour portion of the class, and some badge programs include tag and other "running around" games that can be difficult to play in flip-flops/sandals.

Can we bring a snack?

The NEW zoo does NOT allow carry-ins for general visitors to the zoo. If your scout group would like to offer your own snack before or after your program, education staff must be notified ahead of time. We usually do not allow eating in the middle of our two-hour scout programs, because live animals are involved. If your snack is approved by the education team, it is best to eat it before or after the scheduled class time.

If we book two programs in one day, can we bring our own lunch?

If you are booking a program that *requires two sessions to earn* the badge/achievement (for example, the Fur, Feathers & Ferns Achievement), you may bring bag lunches that you will be permitted to eat in our private classroom in between your group's Session 1 and Session 2. You may also choose to pre-order meals from our Mayan Restaurant, to eat in the restaurant during the lunch break period. We will provide you with an order form prior to your visit if you wish to pre-order meals with us.

If you are booking two programs on the same day that are *not related to each other* (for example a Junior Scout program in the morning and a Brownie Scout program in the afternoon), you will NOT have access to the classroom during the lunch break. Any food you bring to eat during that time must be eaten *outside of the Zoo*, as the zoo does not permit carry-ins for general visitors. We have several picnic areas near the zoo parking lots that can be utilized for this purpose.

What if we have a combined scout group, with more than one level?

We do not have general scout classes, as our programs are designed to specific scout levels and badges/electives/awards. However, we have made accommodations for multi-level scout groups in the past. Our approach has been for troop leaders to choose a specific program at a specific level, and inform our education department during the booking process that there will be a range of ages in the program.



If you have further questions or are ready to book a program, contact our
Education Department:

education@newzoo.org

(920) 662 - 2405