Zoo Lights Overnight

Important Information

We are excited for you to join us at San Antonio Zoo for our Zoo Lights Overnight sleeping in the Education Center. We have included useful information for your upcoming overnight adventure, as well as when and where to meet the overnight educators that will be leading your program.

Please share this document with all individuals attending with your group.

Remember, zoo programs are rain or shine, plan to dress for the weather and bring what you need to be comfortable.

Please reach out to Pilar Colon if you have any questions or concerns.

We are looking forward to a fun and educational program!

Arrival and Parking

• Arrival for this program is 6:15-6:30pm. Guests will park at the Education Center. Follow directions to the zoo entrance (3903 N St. Mary's St. San Antonio TX, 78212), when you reach the traffic circle at the intersection of St. Mary's St. and Tuleta Dr. take the brick road just to the right of Kiddie Park.

o Disregard signs that say, "Do Not Enter" at the traffic circle, you are allowed to drive down to the Education Center parking lot.

o You may park in any marked parking spot, including spots labeled "Parking with Permit Only."

• All parking is first-come first-served, overflow parking is available at the Train Depot Parking lot near Starbucks, (3910 N St Mary's St, San Antonio, TX 78212). You may drop off gear at the Education Center and then park at the Train Depot lot.

• Zoo Lights Overnights are 'lock-in' style, bring all of the belongings you need for the night upon arrival and wait for zoo educators at the Education Center.

• Your program will begin no earlier than 6:30pm, early entry is not available.

Note about late arrivals: Please arrive on time. Refunds are not available for no-shows or participants that are late. Late arrivals must be arranged in advance, no later than 8pm.

What to Bring

• Pillow and sleeping bag or blanket

• Sleeping pad, air mattress, or cot

• Comfortable walking shoes

• Reusable water bottle

• Insect repellant

• Basic toiletry items, pajamas, and change of clothes for the next day (showers are not available)

• Weather-appropriate outerwear

• Wagon, cart, or rolling suitcase (not required, but helpful to transport your belongings)

What NOT to Bring

X Electronics like tablets, video games, music players, etc. (Cameras are welcome)

X Food or drink (including alcohol)

X Weapons

Sample Program Schedule

Below is a timeline of what you can expect. Please know that the schedule is fluid and times may shift to accommodate the weather or be adjusted as needed by your overnight educators.

Day 1

6:30pm – Group Welcome and Check In

6:40pm – Pizza Dinner

7:10pm – Intro Activity/Animal Presentation

7:40pm –Explore Zoo Lights on your own

8:40pm – Night Tour

10:30pm – Get ready for Bed

Day 2

6:35am – Wake Up & Pack Up

7:15am – Put items in cars

7:30am – Taco Breakfast

8:00am – Morning Tour

8:40am – End of Program & Exit

Next day admission IS included with your Zoo Lights Overnight.

Note about early departures: Participants needing to leave early on day 1 may do so from 10:30-11:00pm with the option to return for breakfast at 7:00 am. Participants needing to leave early on day 2 may do so at 7:00 am without readmission.

Plan to coordinate with your overnight educators to ensure a smooth departure.

Guidelines and Expectations

To ensure that everyone has a positive experience, please review the following guidelines with your group, prior to arriving at the zoo. Failure to comply with the following guidelines may result in removal from the Zoo Lights Overnight program and zoo without refund.

• Zoo educators will remain with your group the entire night, except during your Zoo Lights independent exploration. All participants, both children and adults, must stay with zoo educators at all times, except during your Zoo Lights independent exploration.

  o No one is allowed to wander away from the group without alerting and being escorted by zoo educators.

• Adult participants are responsible for the management and discipline of their group, including the following expectations:

  o Showing respect for zoo employees, animals, guests, and property.

  o Running, excessive noise, and horseplay are not allowed.

  o All participants, children and adults, are expected to follow directions and participate in all activities.

• Smoking and vaping are prohibited on zoo grounds.

• Outside food and drink, including alcohol, is prohibited.

• Weapons are prohibited, including concealed and open carry.

FAQs

What meals are included? Pizza dinner, evening snack, and breakfast tacos are all included in the program.

- o Pizza Dinner: Papa John's cheese and peperoni pizza, with water and lemonade
- o Evening Snack: roast your own s'more kit, consisting of graham crackers, chocolate, and a marshmallow are included to make while exploring Zoo Lights.
- o Taco Breakfast: pre-ordered choice of 2 tacos (options: Bacon & Egg, Potato & Egg, and Bean & Cheese), salsa, orange juice, and coffee.
- o Some dietary restrictions can be accommodated, please communicate with your group leader so they can communicate with your program coordinator at least 2 weeks in advance of your program.
    - ▪ If your dietary restrictions cannot be accommodated, you will be welcome to bring your own dinner, snack, and breakfast items.
- o **What if it rains?** Programs occur rain or shine! If there is inclement weather during the program, activities will be modified and shifted indoors. On the rare occasion that forecasted weather becomes a safety concern, the zoo will contact the group leader to reschedule ahead of the program.
- o **Is there a minimum age for participants?** Yes, all participants must be at least 5 years old to participate in a Zoo Lights Overnight program.
- o **Are sleeping spaces co-ed?** Sleeping arrangements within the sleeping venues are up to the preferences of the group. For Zoo Lights Overnights staying in the Education Center three separate classrooms are available.
- o **Will the zoo educators leading my program be male or female?** Zoo educators may be male or female, depending on educator availability for the scheduled program.
- o **Will all of the lights turn off in the sleeping space?** Yes, in the Education Center all lights can be turned off and windows blocked to reduce lighting further.
- o **Will my group get to go into behind-the-scenes areas during this program?** Roars & Snores are front-of-scenes for the safety of our animals and guests.

o **Accommodations or Special Requests:** We want you to have a wonderful program! Please advise us of any needs or concerns you may have that could prevent you from fully participating in the experience. The more information you can provide, the better we can assist you. Please reach out in advance of your attendance.

Questions?

Please contact Pilar Colon 210-296-7611 or email pilar.colon@scouting.org

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