

Connecticut's  
Beardsley Zoo  
Scout Overnights



# 2026 Scout Overnight Handbook

## Table of Contents

Introduction.....1

Administration of the Program.....1

What are the group leader’s responsibilities? .....1

Explanation of Overnight Options.....2

Sample Sleepover Schedule.....2

Sleeping Venues.....3

Meals.....4

Luggage.....4

Inclement Weather.....5

Lost and Found.....5

Code of Conduct.....5

Confirmation Packet.....6

Check-In.....6

Sleepover Packing List.....7

### **Introduction**

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo's Scout Overnight Program is a one night (5pm-8am) indoor camping experience. All participants sleep on the floor in either the Carousel Building, Wolf Cabin, or Hanson Exploration Station locations. The Scout Overnight includes activities, dinner, breakfast, and entry to the zoo the following morning if desired. This program is a supervised event as our staff will be with you from 5pm when your overnight starts at 8am the next day when your overnight concludes.

Our staff strives to inspire, inform and involve. Our educational staff presenting the programming fosters curiosity in animals and science, as well as a sense of respect and wonder for nature through our awe-inspiring programs and activities, all in a fun nocturnal learning environment! All information and activities presented to your troop/pack are age appropriate and based on grade level of the children attending the overnight. During your time here, we will keep you busy with activities, so be prepared. It will **NOT** be an early night! Our zoo grounds are our classroom, so be prepared to walk around a lot as we take you to different areas of our facility to learn about the animals and participate in the fun things we have planned for you.

We provide everyone with a simple pizza dinner the evening you arrive and breakfast cooked the next day. The "Meals" section highlights our offerings for the Scout Overnight program.

### **Administration of Program**

The Scout Overnight program is run by the Rental and Events Department and the Education Department.

All Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo staff at the overnight are comprised of zoo staff and trained volunteers.

### **Sample Sleepover Schedule (\*subject to change without notice)**

Scout arrival and check in  
Carousel Rides  
Pizza Dinner  
Animal Encounter  
Scavenger Hunts  
Bed Set-Ups  
Night Hike, Howl-Owl Prowl  
Movie On and Lights Out  
Scouts Wake Up  
Breakfast  
Scout Clean Up/Wrap Up  
Zoo Opens

## **Sleeping Venues**

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo provides a once-in-a-lifetime experience sleeping in our historical buildings. All scouts sleep on the floor, so we do encourage sleeping bags, air mattresses, foam pads etc. for your comfort.

*Carousel Building:* These counts include both children and adults. This building has heating and a/c so it can be used at any time of the year. Bathrooms are located inside the building. The carousel ride is located in the center of the building, and sleeping arrangements are around the perimeter. Zoo staff sleeps in the Annex Room. The Annex is attached to the Carousel Building just past the bathrooms.

## **Meals**

Dinner: Pizza will be brought in from a zoo vendor and chips, juices, water and cookies will also be provided. Please notify us of any dietary restrictions.

Breakfast: Breakfast will be provided in the morning

Snack: If anyone is hungry during the movie or throughout the course of the night we order extra pizza, cookies, chips and drinks.

### **Luggage**

When your troop arrives at 5pm for the overnight, zoo vehicles will meet you in the parking lot. These vehicles will be used to transport your luggage to your overnight venue location. If you wish to transport your own gear to the Carousel Building it is about a ¼ mile walk, you may bring a wagon to transport. Staff is not permitted to provide rides in zoo vehicles to overnight guests.

When the overnight is concluded, the zoo vehicles will again be used to bring your luggage down to your vehicles. Groups that are doing the zoo for the day after the overnight, please be prepared to store your luggage in your vehicles as you walk around. We cannot leave your items in the sleeping venue as you walk around for the safety of your belongings and our public visitors we have that day. Groups will be escorted out to their vehicles between 8 and 8:30am so they are ready for zoo opening at 9am.

### **Inclement Weather**

If the zoo closes due to inclement weather, the main contact will be contacted and asked if the group would like to reschedule their overnight or receive a refund of their deposit.

If you decide to cancel due to weather, deposits will not be refunded but can be used towards a rescheduled overnight for up to one year from the original overnight date.

If the overnight does go on, zoo staff reserves the right to change activities, locations and timings of events for your safety and the safety of our animals.

Some of the outdoor activities, and shows may be postponed or cancelled and will be at the discretion of the zoo overnight staff.

Please have your sleepover guests dress appropriately for the weather as overnights are held on rainy nights as well!

### **Lost and Found**

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo is not responsible for lost or stolen property. Any items found after the overnight will be taken to our Lost and Found box located in the Welcome Center at the front of the zoo.

### **Code of Conduct**

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo staff adheres to the Code of Conduct for overnights. Please review with your troop/pack prior to arrival.

- Due to the nature of Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo Scout Overnight Program, all scout overnight guests are expected to act in a responsible, safe and courteous manner at all times.
- Overnights are fully supervised by zoo personnel. Adults and children are required to stay with their group at all times during the overnight. Under no circumstances are adults and/or children permitted to leave their troop/pack without zoo staff supervision.
- Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo reserves the right to remove any guests considered to be harmful to the Zoo, guests, staff and animals. In this case, the Scout Overnight program deposit and fees are non-transferable and non-refundable. Behaviors that result in a guest being asked to leave the zoo grounds include but are not limited to: consumption or possession of alcohol, illegal narcotics, possession of a weapon (real or look-alike), destruction of property, or disruptive behavior which threatens the health, safety, and enjoyment of other overnights or staff.
- Overnights shall be responsible for all injury or damage of any kind to persons or property (regardless of who may be the owner of the property).

### **Check-In**

Check-In time for all sleepover groups is 5p.m. Be sure to have your luggage with you. Please make sure you have brought all other paperwork that still needs to be turned in. While you Check-In, Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo staff will be greeting your group, answering any questions you might have, and helping load zoo vehicles with your luggage. You can transport your own gear to the Carousel Building; however, it is about a ¼ mile walk, you can bring a wagon to transport

Be sure to have all your belongings as we will not be returning to the parking lot at any other point during the program.

\*Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo staff will greet you in our upper parking lot at the main zoo entrance.