



Confirmation | Animals After Dark Overnight: Forests

Thank you for registering for an Animals After Dark Overnight here at the Minnesota Zoo! We are looking forward to welcoming your family or group for this exciting program.

Please plan to arrive a few minutes before your program's scheduled start time. On the next page, you'll find detailed information on where to meet your instructor and where to park your vehicle(s) overnight. Please note that the Zoo will be closed when you arrive.

Our overnight programs do need to have a minimum number of participants for them to be held. If this program does not have the minimum number of participants by a week prior to the class, you will be contacted.

Your overnight program will include fun games and activities about northern forest animals, meeting and talking with a zoo keeper, a special behind-the-scenes tour of the bears' kitchen and overnight area, the chance to get a closer look at the bears than most people ever will, and the thrill of experiencing the Zoo when it's closed to the public! All participants will receive a T-shirt, a pizza snack in the evening, and breakfast. Scout groups will also receive a patch for their shirt/vest/sash.

Animals sometimes determine their own behaviors and interactions, so please be aware that based on animal needs and trainer discretion each program is unique and therefore no specific behaviors are guaranteed.

Non-Family Groups (scout, community, etc): A final headcount and balance payment is due a month before your scheduled program.

CANCELLATION POLICY – COMMUNITY (Non-Family) GROUP OVERNIGHTS

If your group chooses to cancel, 50% of your deposit will be returned up until two months prior to the overnight. After that time, your deposit and any balance paid becomes 100% non-refundable AND will not go towards any outstanding balance. The Minnesota Zoo reserves the right to cancel any scheduled overnight should circumstances warrant. If this occurs, the zoo will make every effort to reschedule your group. If rescheduling is not possible, we will refund your money.

CANCELLATION POLICY – FAMILY OVERNIGHTS

Cancellations made more than two weeks prior to the program will receive a refund of 75% of the program fee. No refunds will be made less than two weeks prior to the program. A transfer to a similar program may be possible if requested at least one week prior to the program. No transfers are allowed within one week of the program start date. Refunds will not be issued for no-shows for any program regardless of cause. To cancel or request a refund, contact the Zoo Education Department at educate@mnzoo.org or 952.431.9390.

We can't wait to see you at the Zoo!

Sincerely,

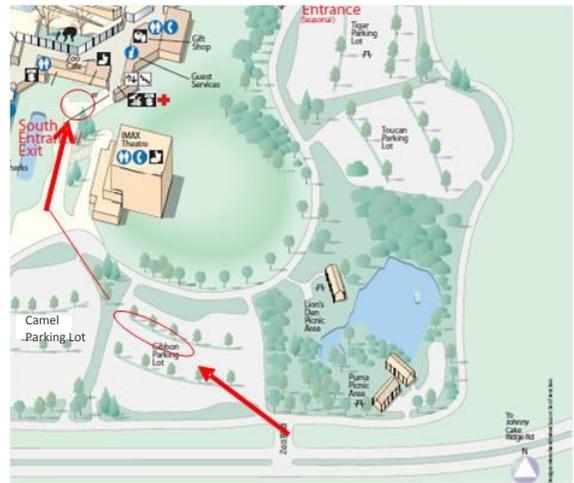
Kristie Nord
Education Community Programs Scheduler
Phone: 952.431.9390
E-mail: [Educate@mnzoo.org](mailto:educate@mnzoo.org)

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Checking In and Parking

A staff member will be at the front entrance of the Zoo to greet you a few minutes before the program's scheduled start time. If you are going to be late, please call 952.431.9306 or 952.431.9251 and ask them to radio the instructor.

When you enter the Zoo grounds take a left at the stop sign and turn right into the first entrance into the parking lot (Gibbon Lot). As you drive towards the front left side of the parking lot you will see 2 areas with trees and grass that divide the parking lot into sections. We are asking that you park in the spaces behind the 1st berm. (The main entrance to the Zoo is the lower walkway near the buffalo statue.) To assist our security staff in identifying cars belonging to overnight participants, we ask that all cars park in this same area.



Packing List

- Comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing (our program is mostly indoors with a bit outdoors so please wear weather-appropriate clothing)
- Closed-toe shoes
- Sandals or slippers (in case you need to get up to use the bathroom in the middle of the night)
- Sleeping bag and pillow (Depending on the weather, you will sleep in either the Minnesota Lodge or beside the black bear exhibit)
- Cot or air mattress (optional – we will supply a foam mat for each person. You may prefer to bring your own cot or air mattress, especially adults.)
- Sleeping mask (optional)
- Pajamas, toothbrush, and a change of clothes
- Camera

Please, do not bring excess bags – there isn't a lot of storage space, so pack light!

Meals

- Please eat dinner before you arrive for the overnight. Juice and a pizza snack will be provided around 8:00 pm. Feel free to bring an additional nut-free* snack on your own if you'd like.
** Due to the high prevalence of food allergies, we ask that any snacks are nut-free. However, we cannot guarantee a nut-free environment at the Zoo as nuts are a regular part of our animal diets and other guests often bring their own food items containing nuts.*
- Cereal, fruit, juice, and milk will be provided for breakfast.

*If you have any **dietary restrictions** (example: gluten free pizza, etc.), please email educate@mnzoo.org to let us know a minimum of 1 week prior to your program so we can accommodate your needs.

To request a **specific disability accommodation**, please contact the Minnesota Zoo at least two weeks prior to your program at 952-431-9364 (voice), 1-800-627-3529 (TTY), or access@mnzoo.org. More information can be found on our [Accessibility](#) page.

Note: The Minnesota Zoo is a *completely smoke-free facility* including the parking lots. This policy is effective for both public hours and all after-hours events. No smoking on Zoo property includes the use of lighted cigarettes, cigars, pipes or other smoking materials as well as e-cigarettes.

After Your Program

The program ends at 9:00 AM. Since your fee includes zoo admission the next day, you are welcome to stay and tour the Zoo.

Emergency Phone Number

If family members need to reach you in an emergency, they may call the Heating Plant at 952.431.9306 or 952.431.9251. The staff can radio the overnight lead staff or security. This is for EMERGENCIES ONLY.