

Teacher and Chaperone Field Trip Guide

Field trips are important ways for students to use inquiry and to have new experiences outside of the classroom. At the Phoenix Zoo, students may hear the territorial call of a lemur, touch a slimy stingray or watch a pack of African painted dogs play. Research suggests that field trips have significant benefits towards students beyond educational aspects. After field trips, students often demonstrate stronger critical thinking skills, display higher levels of tolerance and have greater empathy. ([Education Next, 2016](#))

This guide and the [self-guided field trip curriculum options](#) make it easy for teachers and chaperones to be empowered with their students while exploring the Zoo while encouraging higher level thinking from students. In this document, you will find the Phoenix Zoo field trip map, information on trails and teacher and chaperone checklists for a successful field trip.

Now, what are you waiting for? Use this guide and take your students on a one-of-a-kind interactive adventure. We look forward to seeing you at the Phoenix Zoo!

How long do we need to see the entire Zoo?

Zoo grounds encompass approximately 125 acres and consist of nearly 2.5 miles of walking trails. Generally, the Africa and Tropics Trails take just under an hour each, and the Arizona and Children's Trail take about half an hour each. The size and age of your group and how fast you walk will determine how long each trail takes. Because we create exhibits that replicate the animals' natural habitats, some animals can be difficult to see, and more time may be required to observe them.

Inside the Gates

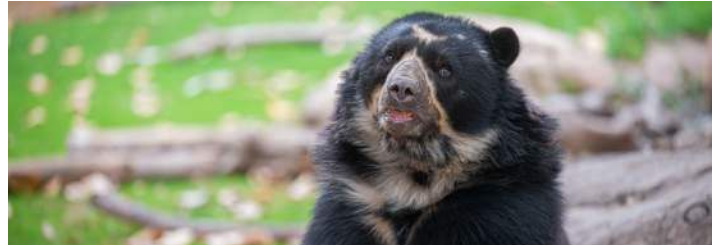
Be flexible! It's encouraged to have a plan for the day, but we are comprised of living animals that can be unpredictable. An animal your group planned to see may be off exhibit or not visible that day. Be sure to look over each exhibit thoroughly before moving on. As is the nature of some animals, they may be under a bush, up on a ledge or down in a moat. Feel free to ask any Zoo employee or volunteer (wearing maroon-colored shirts) if you have questions or are looking for animals.

If you need emergency or first-aid services, any Zoo employee will be able to get you into contact with a Park Ranger (wearing gold-colored shirts). Park Rangers can also be reached by calling **602-568-8807**.

Trail Descriptions



The Arizona Trail is located near the front of the zoo and houses species native to Arizona. You will find animals from mammals and birds to amphibians, reptiles, fish and invertebrates that are well adapted to dry, desert conditions.



The Tropics Trail has a wide variety of species from tropical environments from large to small primates and colorful birds. You will find the most variety down this trail. Don't forget to check out the plants on the path. Our horticulture team works hard caring for such unique plants in our desert environment.



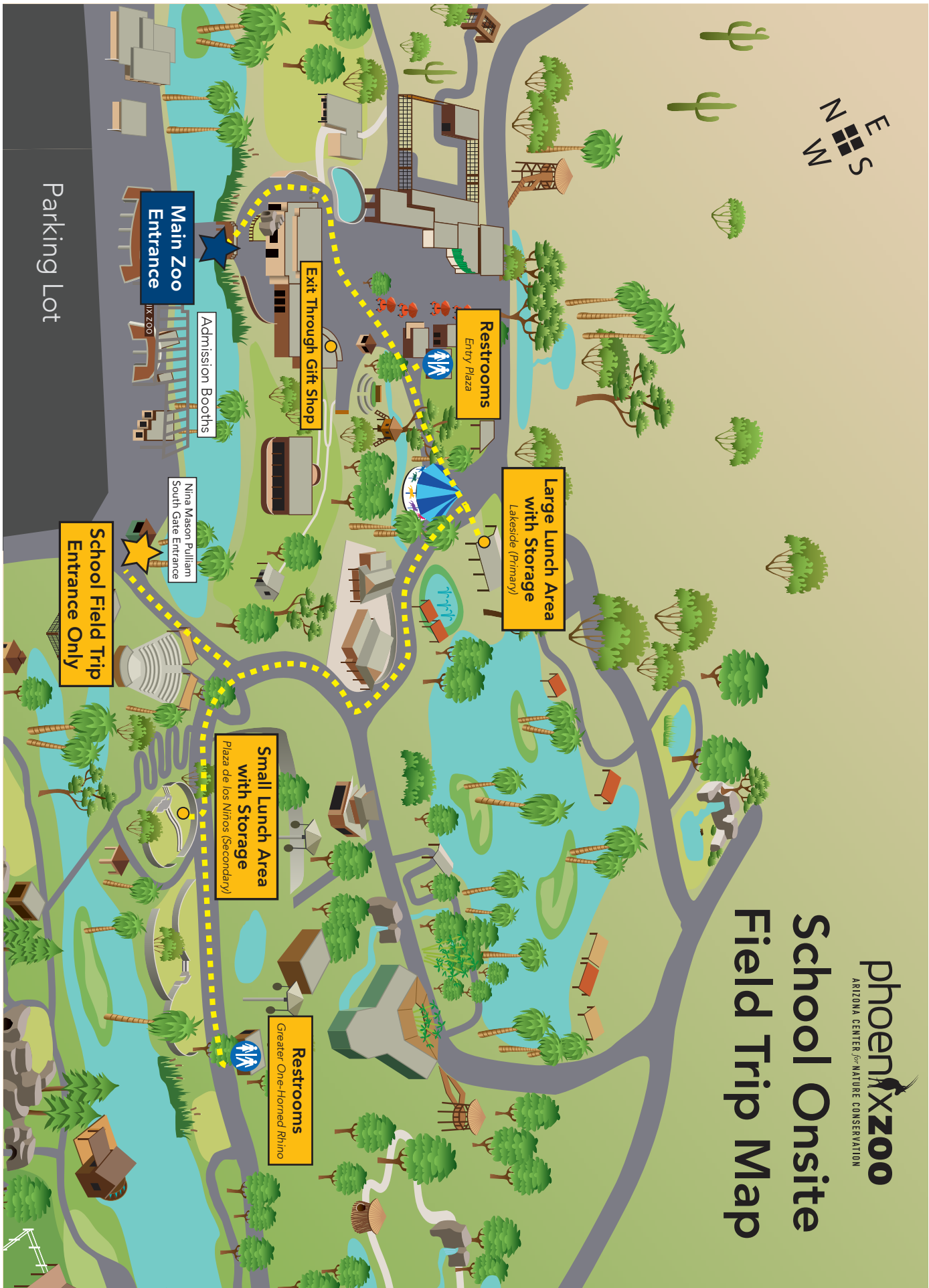
The Africa Trail houses animals well adapted to the arid desert regions of Africa. From the tallest of land animals like the Masai giraffe, to the fiercest of predators like the African lion and African painted dogs, to some of the most brightly colored birds, the greater flamingo, the Africa Trail offers diversity found nowhere else.



The Children's Trail is where you will find our farm area with domestic animals. Further down the pathway, you will also encounter different bird species, small mammals and reptiles from around the world.



The Desert Discovery Trail takes you deeper into the desert, where you'll spot bighorn sheep traversing the Papago Buttes and Arabian oryx, the Zoo's first conservation success!



Teacher Field Trip Checklist

Dear teacher,

Please read and complete the following checklist ahead of time to ensure a safe and fun visit for you and your class. **Students must be always supervised regardless of age and level of independence.** Thank you for taking your students on a field trip to the Phoenix Zoo.

Before your visit...

- ☐ Show students the [Phoenix Zoo Field Trip video](#). Share this video with chaperones.
- ☐ Visit the [Field Trip Resource page](#) and download the field trip curriculum resource you would like to use.
 - Complete pre-visit classroom activities associated with the educational goal of your trip.
 - Read over the curriculum and make sure students have appropriate supplies (worksheets, clipboards, pencils, etc.).
- ☐ Use the Zoo map to plan your day. Decide which trails and animals you would like your students to see.
 - Print a Zoo map for each chaperone or have them download it to their mobile device.
- ☐ Arrange at least one adult chaperone for every ten students.
- ☐ Have a communication plan for your chaperones.
 - Exchange cellphone numbers with chaperones for easy and timely communication. If chaperones do not have a cellphone, there is a courtesy phone in the Zoo's Guest Services office by the main entry that can be used to call you.
 - Provide chaperones with student names in their group, the day's schedule, meeting times and locations.
- ☐ Make copies of the Chaperone Checklist, student handouts, and any other forms you create that communicate meeting times and locations.
 - Each chaperone must have a copy of each item.
 - Make sure chaperones understand the educational goals of the field trip and the role they need to play in activities including that they must stay with their assigned students for their entire visit.
- ☐ [Go over the rules with students and chaperones](#). Establish behavioral expectations and consequences. **Chaperones MUST stay with students regardless of their age and level of independence.**
- ☐ Remind students to use sunscreen, wear appropriate clothing for the weather and bring water.

Day of the field trip...

- ☐ Before entering, distribute wristbands to students, teachers, and chaperones. These bands must be worn at all times during your visit.
- ☐ Everyone will enter the Zoo together through the Nina Mason Pulliam Gate, which is to the right of the ticket windows by the main Zoo entry bridge.
- ☐ You are welcome to bring your lunches.
 - We do not provide monitored lunch storage. Students may carry their own lunches through the Zoo (you may use coolers).
 - There is lunch storage at Plaza de los Niños and at Lakeside.
 - When it is time to eat, you may use Lakeside or Plaza de los Niños, which are the two largest seating areas at the Zoo. There are also smaller areas at Harmony Farm. Please note that these seating areas are open to all groups and cannot be reserved.
 - Please be mindful of other guests while eating and ensure all waste ends up in the correct bin.
- ☐ Choose the route you will take to store lunches and take a restroom break before exploring the Zoo (see map).
- ☐ Students must always be accompanied by an adult.
- ☐ We suggest students wear name tags that identify themselves by first name and school, regardless of age.
- ☐ Give the cell number of your emergency contact to the Zoo staff when you check in.
- ☐ Take advantage of our free programming including animal presentations and demonstrations. Check the kiosk on your way in or check our website ahead of time for an updated schedule on our [Today at the Zoo](#) page.

Field Trip Chaperone Guide

Dear chaperone,

Thank you for supervising students on a field trip to the Phoenix Zoo. As a chaperone, your priority is the students in your group. **Chaperones MUST stay with students regardless of their age and level of independence.** You have the opportunity to significantly participate in the education of the students you are with. Have fun with it!

Make sure to get the following information from your teacher.

- ☐ Phone number of teacher or group leader: _____
- ☐ Print out the Phoenix Zoo map or pull up the map on your phone.



- ☐ Names of students in your group.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

- ☐ Time to meet for lunch: _____

- ☐ Time to be back in the parking lot for pickup: _____

Field Trip Chaperone Checklist

Please follow the directions on this page to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.

- ☐ Make sure you understand the educational goals of the trip and the behavioral expectations and consequences.
- ☐ Make sure you are familiar with the worksheet and ask the teacher any questions before separating.
- ☐ Make a list of the names of students in your group so that you can keep track of them. If you have a cell phone you are bringing on the trip, be sure to give the number to the teacher.
- ☐ In fairness to all students, please get teacher permission before purchasing additional activities that do not include all students.
- ☐ Respect our animals, their homes, Zoo grounds and other visitors. Please remind students to:
 - Stay with chaperones and on the paths.
 - Not enter the splashpads at Leapin' Lagoon and Yakulla Cavern; these are reserved for general Zoo guests only.
 - Be courteous of each other and other guests and take turns watching the animals when space is limited.
 - Keep voices low near animal habitats. Please do not roughhouse, shout, or tap on the glass. This may scare the animals and make them harder to see.
 - Walk rather than run while on Zoo trails.
 - Keep food and other objects out of animal habitats.
 - Write only on appropriate surfaces.
 - Deposit unwanted items into the trash or recycling bin.
 - If you get lost, ask a Zoo employee for help.
- ☐ Encourage curiosity and exploration. Help students learn and explore by asking questions that keep them involved and respond positively to their answers and ideas. Encourage them to learn through observation.
- ☐ Keep students engaged. Make sure students participate in activities and gently redirect them if they are having trouble focusing.
- ☐ Keep the group together. Chaperones are expected to always stay with their group, regardless of student age and independence.
- ☐ Demonstrate appropriate behavior. Modeling proper behavior and attitude is the most powerful type of teaching. Students learn by copying your behavior.

Please note: Groups that do not respect Zoo rules or property will be escorted from Zoo grounds by our Park Rangers. This may jeopardize your school's eligibility for future visits.



ACCREDITED BY THE
ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

Cashless - cards & mobile pay only.
Please stay on designated paths.
Do not climb on or throw items into habitats.
Concessions, Experiences and Zoo hours may vary.
Animals on view are subject to change without notice.

Do not feed the animals. They receive a healthy, balanced diet from their zookeepers.

Some experiences at the Zoo provide opportunities for direct contact with our collection animals absent a physical barrier. Please be advised that on occasion, some of those animals may be administered dietary items that could be allergens to our guests.

 Accessibility information is available at Guest Services or go to "Plan Your Visit" at phoenixzoo.org

 The Phoenix Zoo is a smoke-free facility, including electronic cigarettes.

 Recycle bins are located throughout the Zoo to recycle your plastics, aluminum and paper.

Consumer Image Policy - Thank you for visiting the Phoenix Zoo. During your visit you, and/or your minor children may be filmed, videotaped or photographed by a Zoo employee or contracted professional. Your admission to the Zoo serves as permission for use of your image by the Zoo and its contributors. The commercial use of photographs, video and film you may have taken during your visit is strictly prohibited without full written consent of the Zoo. Personal use is permitted.

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|-----------------------|
|  | ATM |  | Restrooms |
|  | Cash to Card Kiosk |  | Souvenir Photos |
|  | Drinking Fountain |  | Stroller Rental |
|  | First Aid and Lost & Found |  | Vending |
|  | Food & Drink |  | Wheelchair Rental |
|  | Gift Shop |  | Headphone/ Quiet Zone |