



The Zoo and You

Leader facilitated activities for younger scouts

The following discussion questions and activities are designed to help leaders supplement their troop's visit to the North Carolina Zoo. Zoo Patches are available for purchase in Earth Explorer Gift Shop – consider using these as an incentive to complete some of the activities below!

If interested in a program specifically designed to meet badge requirements please visit our website to learn about [Scout Badge programs](#) offered at the Zoo.

Pre-trip/Post-trip Activities

1. Take a nature walk around your school, church, or meeting place. Use field guides to help identify the different plants and animals you see.
2. Build and stock a terrarium.
3. Make paintings or sculptures of animals you will see or have seen at the Zoo.
4. Make a bulletin board or poster to educate others of the need for conservation and a clean environment.
5. Tell a story about your pet or a pet you would like to own. Explain the proper way to care for this pet.
6. Write and produce a play or puppet show about how children should act at the Zoo. Consider presenting this to another troop that is planning a Zoo trip.
7. Plant a tree, garden, or flowers. Show others that we **can** beautify our environment.
8. Plan and conduct a recycling project to clean up your community. Some items (e.g., aluminum cans) may be sold to raise money for an ecology project, such as buying a tree for your school.
9. Learn about and share information on one of the animals you might see during a visit to the Zoo.
10. Find at least 5 examples of animals in music, art or literature. Create your own song, picture, or story about something in nature. Share with your troop.
11. Research ways humans are destroying the homes of plants and animals. What can be done about any of these problems? How can zoos help? How can you help?
12. Name 3 items humans throw away that are may be harmful to animals (i.e. plastic rings, balloons, glass). Explain where this material is coming from and how it is dangerous to animals. Suggest ways to prevent this.

During Your Visit

1. Find out what is meant by “endangered species.” Why are some animals and plants endangered? Discuss ways we might prevent others species from becoming endangered.
2. Make a list of new words you heard or saw at the Zoo. What do they mean? Share some definitions with members of your troop.
3. Discuss the purpose of zoos. What do you think is the most important thing zoos can do for wildlife? Share your ideas with other Scouts.
4. Discuss differences between “wild” and “tame” animals. List examples of each.
5. List different types of foot coverings people wear (tennis shoes, boots, flippers, skates, etc.) and discuss why a person might wear each one. Notice the different types of feet animals have. Discuss how do you think special feet help animals survive?
6. Many animals have colors and/or patterns that help them to blend in with their surroundings. Discuss ways animals use camouflage to survive. Look for animals during your Zoo visit that might use camouflage to survive in the wild. Try to find animals in your neighborhood that are using camouflage. Design a butterfly (or other animal) that blends in with some area in your home. Place the animal in that area and record how long it goes unnoticed by your family and friends. Take an average of the total time.
7. During your Zoo visit, look for similarities and differences in ways animals move, eat or protect themselves. Choose one animal to imitate and take turns guessing which animal you are.
8. As you tour the Aviary, notice the different shapes of beaks on the birds. How many different shapes can you find? Why do you think different birds have different beaks? What might happen if all birds had the same type of beak and ate the same type of food? Identify tools that resemble any of the beak shapes (for example, spears resemble the beak of an egret)?
9. Locate the animals at the Zoo that have thumbs and watch them closely. How do they use their thumbs? Hold up one of your hands. Touch your thumb to the tip of each finger on that hand. This ability means that your thumb is “opposable.” What are some things that Zoo animals with thumbs can do that other animals can’t? What might it be like to live without thumbs? Try to write your name, button a button, or tie your shoe without using your thumb.