

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Education Department

Home School Individual Student Program Schedule

2010-2011

Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' Education Department offers a variety of education classes specifically for home-schooled students living along the First Coast (Northeast FL and Southeast GA). This unique opportunity allows students to get up close and hands-on with animals in a nurturing, learning environment with their peers. All classes are developed based on age groups and curricula suitable for the age group. Hands-on with animals, artifacts, additional learning aids, and take home activity packets reinforce and complement the each topic. Class size is limited to the first 25 students to register.

2010 CLASSES

September 21, 22, or 23		5-7 Years Basics of Life	8-10 Years Animal Groups	11 Years and up Basics of Life
	9:30	Animal Life	Invertebrates	Vertebrate Classes
	10:30	Fur, Feathers, Scales	Fish and Amphibians	Invertebrates
	11:30	Animal Friends	Reptiles	Ecosystems
October 12, 13, or 14		5-7 Years Animal Groups	8-10 Years Animal Groups 2	11 Years and up Habitat Series
	9:30	Animals without Backbones	Birds I - Classification	Wetlands
	10:30	Fish & Amphibians	Birds II - identification	Grasslands
	11:30	Reptiles	Mammals	Rainforest
November 16, 17, or 18		5-7 Years Animal Groups 2	8-10 Years Basics of Life	11 Years and up Scientist Series 1
	9:30	Birds	Adaptations	Food Chains & Webs – Energy Flow
	10:30	Mammals	Food Chains	Wild Science
	11:30	Night Animals	Timucua Indians	Anatomy & Function
December 14, 15, or 16		5-7 Years Survival Series 1	8-10 Years Habitat Series 1	11 Years and up Scientist Series 2
	9:30	Adaptations	Tundras & Deserts	Herpetology
	10:30	Animal Senses	Grasslands	Ornithology
	11:30	Dinner Or Diner	Forests	Mammalogy

2011 CLASSES

January 18, 19, or 20		5-7 Years Survival Series 2	8-10 Years Habitat Series 2	11 Years and up Scientist Series 3
	9:30	Meat-eaters	Wetlands	Endangered Species Conservation
	10:30	Plant-eaters	Rain Forests	Animal Signs & Tracks
	11:30	Habitats	Oceans	Tree Science
February 1, 2, or 3		5-7 Years Habitat Series	8-10 Years Scientist Series 1	11 Years and up Scientist Series 4
	9:30	Florida Animals	Wild Science	Animal Behavior
	10:30	Rainforest Animals	Animal Signs & Tracks	Operant Conditioning
	11:30	Desert Animals	Endangered Species	Elephants

February 15, 16, or 17		5-7 Years Geography Series	8-10 Years Scientist Series 2	11 Years and up Research Series
	9:30	Africa	Animal Behavior	Exhibit Design
	10:30	Australia	Animal Health	Marine Life
	11:30	First Floridians	Animal Training	Jacksonville Public Library Program – Research Tools

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED: Maximum number of students per program is 25. Many classes fill quickly. **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:** 5 PM the Thursday preceding the first day of programs.

A minimum of 8 students for each class is required. If the minimum is not achieved, the Education Department reserves the right to cancel or combine classes due to insufficient enrollment.

Fees - Zoo Members: \$3.00/student/hour; Non-members: \$3.50/student/hour. Program fees do not include admission to the Jacksonville Zoo. Admission to the Zoo is optional and must be paid separately at the Zoo's Main Entrance and is not required for participation in this program.

Please submit only one registration form per child in person at the Zoo's Education Department or via mail or FAX. Registrations cannot be taken over the telephone. Payment must accompany the registration form to guarantee your child's reservation.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICIES: Cancellations received 10 business days or more prior to your scheduled class will receive a full refund less a 10% administrative fee. Cancellations made 9 to 5 business days prior to the first day of a class will receive a 75% refund of fees. Cancellations received less than 5 business days before the event forfeit all fees paid.

The Education Department reserves the right to cancel or combine age groups when classes do not meet the minimum requirement of 8 students to provide the program. Exceptions to the cancellation and refund policies will be made on a case by case basis and at the sole discretion of the Director of Education. *If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting the Education Department at 904-757-4463 ext. 122.*

First Time Participant?

For many children, the home school programs at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is their first experience in a structured learning environment. To help make this a positive experience for everyone, the following guidelines will help your child be successful in this environment:

- Arrive on time; once the program has begun, we cannot admit your child as it will disrupt the learning environment already established.
- Don't interrupt the teacher or other children when they are talking. If you would like to contribute, please raise your hand.
- Please remain in your seat so you don't frighten the animals.
- Please keep your hands to yourself. Our teachers will let you know when and teach you how to touch the animals used in our programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

I am new to the program. How do you screen your staff?

All staff educators are screened for excellence in children's programming. All have had previous experience with children and have cleared nationwide, state and FBI Level 2 background checks as prescribed by the State of Florida's Jessica Lunsford Act.

May I sit in the class with my child?

Our programs are designed for children who are able to be successful in group oriented programs without parent involvement. Space in each classroom is limited and due to the popularity of the classes most fill to capacity thus not permitting extra persons to sit-in. PARENTS WHO STRONGLY FEEL THEY MUST STAY WITH THEIR CHILD MUST ATTEND A YOUTH PROTECTION TRAINING PROGRAM WITH THE ZOO'S VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR AT LEAST A WEEK PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED PROGRAM. PLEASE CONTACT 757-4463, 176 TO ARRANGE THE TRAINING.

May younger siblings sit in on the class?

We have been conducting Home School Classes for nearly a decade. Our classes are designed for the ages specified after experimenting with a variety of age combinations. To make your child's class a positive experience we do not allow younger children to sit-in with older siblings.

Where are the classes held?

All classes are held at the PepsiCo Foundation Education Campus located at the south end of the Zoo's main parking lot. Paying Zoo admission is not necessary to participate in class. In your confirmation materials, you will receive a map showing you the location of the campus.

Do I drop my child off or do I wait?

We ask that you stay with your child in the Education Auditorium through the brief orientation conducted at the start of class. To accommodate those who wait we set-up the auditorium with games, storybooks, and quiet activities that entertain younger siblings. Parents are welcome to network and visit with one another or read. If you feel comfortable, you are welcome to take a trip into the Zoo while your child participates in class, and our staff will make sure he or she gets to the rest of the classes. It is entirely up to you.

What about disruptive children?

To ensure an enjoyable and safe experience for all children, the zoo's staff manages child behavior. All children are expected to behave appropriately, and in the event of disruptive behavior, a child may be timed-out and removed from the group. If the disruptive behavior continues, the child-care provider will be called to help find a solution. If improvement is not realized immediately, the child-care provider may be asked to remove the child early from class and the child may be asked not to return. In this situation, there will be no refunds for any missed classes that day.

Can you accommodate children with special needs?

Please indicate on the registration form any special needs our staff must be made aware of prior to your first day. Special needs such as physical, academic, and social will be accommodated to the best of our ability. Please note that the zoo does not employ specific individuals certified and trained to handle special needs children.

My child has a younger friend. Can the/she attend the same class?

Our classes are designed for the ages specified after experimenting with a variety of age combinations. We would rather an older child feel like he or she is at the top of the class than a younger child made to feel at the bottom of the class. If they must attend together, we strongly advise that you register the older child for the younger class to make the experience a positive one for both children.