



Know Before You Go

Reminders for ZooTampa at Lowry Park

Chaperones, be sure your driver's license has been scanned by the front office to ensure you are in our Raptor system. You will be required to wear your visitor sticker while on the trip. This must be done ahead of time, prior to the day of the field trip. On the day of the field trip, your child's teacher will provide you with this sticker badge. Once you drop off your child to school, you will begin driving and meet us at ZooTampa. Once you have entered the park, you will meet us in the round courtyard at the front of the park. Here, we will take a class picture, then split up into chaperone groups. After this, you are free to explore the park with your group. You are expected to fulfill your duties for the full duration of the trip, unless a medical or family emergency requires your early departure. Please plan to stay for the full day.

Students must wear their blue Harvey kindergarten shirt and comfortable sneakers, and must be at school no later than 8:15 before the first bell rings. We will need to get a head start on using the bathroom prior to boarding the bus at 8:45 a.m., as well as reviewing field trip expectations with our students. Be sure your child either eats breakfast at home, or arrives early enough to school to eat breakfast in the cafeteria. Backpacks will need to be left at home, and students will not need to bring anything with them except a disposable water bottle. While we know that an hour may seem like a long ride, the friendly conversation of peers and entertainment from teachers will provide plenty of distraction and help the time on the bus pass quickly.

Your child's teacher will let you know the best way to communicate with him/her for the duration of the field trip. Please be sure you are regularly checking your phones in case we need to get ahold of you, and do not hesitate to reach out if you have a question or need assistance. We are always happy to help! ☺

Chaperones must remain with their groups at all times, and are responsible for the students in their group. Chaperones are also expected to supervise students entering and exiting the restroom. Chaperone groups are welcome to and encouraged to join together and tour the zoo together. Per district policy, siblings are not permitted to attend if you are chaperoning. This is because full, undivided attention must be given to the students you are supervising. If siblings are in attendance, students will be reassigned to other groups, and you will be relieved of your chaperone responsibilities. You and your children will still be permitted to join other groups and tour the zoo together.

We want everyone to have fun on our trip as we learn about the different animals at the zoo. Students are expected to conduct themselves with integrity, and please keep in mind that running, pushing, and shouting scares the animals. Students may not feed the animals, throw things into the exhibits, and must remain outside of all safety barriers and fences. Following these guidelines helps to ensure the safety of our students and the animals we are visiting.

While the weather is expected to be mild on the day of the field trip, please apply sunscreen to your child prior to bringing them to school. Hats are permitted to be worn if your child wishes to do so to help keep eyes

shaded and cool. Teachers and staff are not permitted to apply sunscreen to your child. Students and chaperones are encouraged to bring a disposable water bottle. There are water fountains throughout the park, and water bottles can be refilled throughout the day as needed. Please do not send in your child's regular water bottle because we do not want these to get lost or left behind at the park. Outside food and drinks are not permitted (excluding water bottles). As stated, students must wear their blue Harvey Kindergarten shirts for the field trip. This will help designate our group. Students may not wear bathing suits or bring towels, and will not be getting wet, soaked, or playing in any splash zones/areas of the park.

Students may bring money to purchase souvenirs from gift shops if you wish for them to do so. Chaperones must accompany students if visiting the gift shop. Students are responsible for their money. Please do not expect teachers or chaperones to hold or manage your child's money or souvenirs.

Apart from animal exhibits, ZooTampa features rides for children. Chaperones are required to stand and maintain visual contact of students at the ride loading/unloading area for all rides to ensure the safety of students. Chaperones must accompany students for the Safari Ride if you choose to participate in this experience. Please remember that students are not permitted to play in any splash zones or areas.

Lunch is being provided by ZooTampa and was included in the admission price of the field trip. Lunch will be served at 11:30 - 12:00 for Lunch Group 1 (Phillips, Bernaert, Grant, Dressel, & Gleason), and 12:00 - 12:30 for Lunch Group 2 (Carpenter, Naylor, Pescuma, Light, & Smeralda) in the Saunders Pavilion, located near the front of the park where we all met upon arrival and took pictures. Please be on time. Chaperones should plan to purchase their lunch before or after the student lunch that will be served in the event pavilion. Seats will be limited and chairs are reserved for students only, however, you are more than welcome to take your lunches with you and find alternative seating nearby around the zoo if preferred.

At the conclusion of our field trip, all teacher and chaperone groups will meet at the front of the zoo entrance promptly at 3:00 in the circular courtyard. We will be reboarding the charter buses no later than 3:15 to come back to school campus. Chaperones, please plan to have students in your group use the restroom prior to meeting so that we can expedite the process of reboarding buses and getting back to school on time. Chaperones, if you wish to take your child home with you from the zoo, you will need to sign out your child with your child's teacher before leaving and sign a Release of Liability form. We will return to school by 4:30 p.m.

Once we arrive back at Harvey, students will get off the bus and be gathered in front of the school with their respective teacher. Parents, please do not take your child until your child's teacher has dismissed your

child to you. This is to ensure everyone has been accounted for and that your child's teacher does not have a panic attack. If your child is enrolled in the Reef aftercare program and will not be picked up immediately after the field trip, your child will be brought to Reef.

We are looking forward to a wonderful and memorable day at the zoo!

