



Welcome to “Night Tracks” Family Night

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for joining us for a Night Tracks Overnight. You will be participating in a fun and educational night at the Zoo. The program emphasizes how the wolf has been viewed through the ages and how modern scientists are studying them. You will be provided with a unique adventure that will allow you to learn the role of zoos in education, preservation of species and general wildlife conservation. As part of a ‘scientific team’, participants will simulate tracking a wolf through the Zoo using radio tracking devices, plot on a map the movements of wolves in Minnesota, explore the world of nocturnal animals using night vision binoculars, and use compasses to navigate through the Zoo. In addition, participants will learn about gray wolves, other North American species, and the environment through conservation-oriented games and animal interaction.

Night Tracks Overnight Program Schedule*

- Evenings:** Please arrive promptly at 6:45 PM.
Park in the Lion Lot and meet at the Reinberger Education Center. An instructor will greet you and show you where to unload your gear.
- 7:00-7:30** Welcome and introduction
- 7:30-8:30** Programming: participants will meet some of the Zoo’s small education animals and learn about habitat components and animal interaction through conservation-oriented games.
- 8:30-9:00** Snack Break! The Zoo will provide a light evening snack. Participants should eat dinner before arriving at the Zoo. If a participant has special dietary needs, please contact the Education Division prior to your program date. Otherwise, no coolers, drinks, or other food items are permitted. Water bottles are permitted.
- 9:00-10:45** Programming: participants will utilize radio telemetry equipment to simulate locating a wolf; track data on wolves in Minnesota and plot their movements on a map; and explore areas of the Zoo while on a night hike.
- 10:45-11:00** Bedtime! Participants should bring their own sleeping bag and pillows. The Zoo will provide camping mats. Restrooms are within walking distance, but there are no showers.
- Mornings:**
- 7:00-7:30** Wake up and get ready for the day. Clean up and pack up gear.
- 8:00-8:30** Breakfast! The Zoo will provide a continental breakfast.
- 8:30-10:30** Programming: scavenger hunt; compass activity; and opportunity to meet an animal keeper.
- 10:30-11:00** Program evaluations and closing. Participants are welcome to stay in The Rainforest and/or Zoo **immediately following their program**, if they choose. However, participants must have means to store their gear.

*Times are approximate and programming is subject to change.

Guidelines

What to Bring:

Sleeping bags and pillows are necessary, as you will be sleeping on the floor. Camping mats are provided.

Please be sure to pack appropriate clothing (sleepwear, change of clothes, toiletries, outdoor garments, and comfortable shoes). Unless weather is severe, we will continue with the outdoor portion of our program. Please note that a large amount of the program consists of outdoor activities such as hiking; please contact the Education Division prior to your program, if you have any limitations.

Waiver/emergency treatment release form must be filled out and signed on both sides. All participants, children and adults, are required to have his/her own form. **Waivers/emergency treatment forms should be sent to the Zoo two weeks before the program date.** Participants will not be permitted to attend the Night Tracks overnight without a completed waiver/emergency form.

Medications - the Zoo will not be responsible for the dispensing of any medications. It will be the responsibility of the chaperone of the group.

To ensure that your overnight runs smoothly, please read the following information:

Participants must be at least six years old to participate. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Due to security reasons, we can not accommodate any participant needing to arrive or leave between the hours of 7:30 PM – 7:30 AM.

If a participant becomes ill during any part of the program, we will assist them in making arrangements to get home. Please make sure that all children have their waiver forms filled out with phone numbers of someone who can be reached during their stay at the Zoo.

Participants are welcome to stay in The RainForest and/or Zoo immediately following their program, if they choose. However, participants must have means to store their gear.

If you need more information, please call the Education Division at (216) 635-3391. In case of an emergency during the overnight, campers can be reached through the Ranger Department at (440) 331-5530.

Guidelines for Parents and Guardians

1. Parents/guardians must be a minimum of 18-years old.
2. Parents/guardians must accompany campers throughout the entire program.
3. Parents/guardians are responsible for the management of the campers, including any necessary disciplinary measures. Parents are also required to enforce regulations regarding Zoo property and equipment.
4. Everyone, including parents and guardians must follow instructions of the Zoo staff.
5. All participants must take part in all scheduled activities. No one may remain in the building during the outdoor activities.
6. No smoking or drinking of alcoholic beverages allowed.
7. No coolers, drink items, or food items are permitted. Water bottles are permitted.
8. No television, video games, radio/CD/tape players, or flashlights please.
9. Children participants are not permitted to bring cell phones. Adult participants may bring cell phones for emergency purposes only. In case of an emergency, campers can be reached through the Ranger Department at (440) 331-5530.
10. No running or horseplay throughout the Zoo or Rainforest.