



Committed to Education

Key to our mission of improving the future for wildlife is educating as many people as possible about all of our animals, the various threats that put their species in danger and what people can do in their everyday lives to help endangered wildlife and their habitats. Through special programs tailored for all ages, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo reaches thousands of people year-round with our conservation messages that encourage a deeper understanding of and respect for wildlife and nature. From school children to retirees, we have a class or program to suit everyone.

Professor Wylde is Back

“Professor Wylde’s Animal Show” is back for another summer of fun at the Zoo’s Amphitheater. Running three times daily from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, this entertaining program uses the Zoo’s animals to teach visitors of all ages about exhibit design at the Zoo. At the same time, Professor Wylde teaches about the conservation of wildlife and wild places and what everyone can do in their own lives to help the cause.

Joining Professor Wylde is a cast of critters that includes a white stork, African guinea fowl, greater sulfur-crested cockatoo, two-toed sloth, Egyptian vulture, Burmese python, peregrine falcon, fennec fox, scarlet macaw and a palm cockatoo. Some of Professor Wylde’s high-flying, feathered friends swoop right above the audience, and some lucky visitors might just get a chance to come on stage and take part in the show.

The Zoo Amphitheater is accessible by the path near the Main Gate just before the construction area of the new African Elephant Crossing exhibit. After learning from Professor Wylde about how the Zoo designs its exhibits in the best way possible for its animals, audience members can get an up-close view of the new elephant exhibit being built.

Professor Wylde’s Animal Show is free with Zoo admission. Show times are 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Bring the Zoo to You

If you can’t come to the Zoo, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will come to you. The Zoo’s Outreach Program brings small animals and educational programs to groups of all ages throughout the year. The Outreach Program serves schools, community groups, clubs and other groups of 10 or more people. They’re free for groups in Cuyahoga County and Hinckley Township. Groups elsewhere are charged a fee. To learn about how you can have the Zoo go to you, call the Conservation Education department at (216) 635-3309.

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Spend a Night at the Zoo

The Zoo is a completely different experience after the sun goes down, and now you can sleep over at the Zoo and learn a lot about wildlife along the way.

The Zoo offers three different overnight programs, serving groups of all ages, including school groups and families. From June through August, the Rising Waters Safari Camp offers an African-themed overnight adventure; while from September to May the Night Tracks program allows participants to become scientists for the night, exploring the Zoo and tracking animals with compasses, maps, radio telemetry equipment and night-vision goggles.

New in 2009 is "Outback After Dark." This overnight adventure allows campers to experience a night in the life of an Australian sheep rancher and learn about culture and wildlife in the land down under. With programs in April, May, September and October, Outback After Dark includes opportunities to see Aussie animals such as sheep, donkeys, a miniature horse, rabbits, snakes, a bearded dragon, frogs, a blue-tongued skink, birds, goats and a Parma wallaby.

To learn about the Zoo's overnight programs, or to register your group, visit clemetzoo.com or call (216) 635-3391,

A Cast of Australian Animals Joins the "Mission" at Ballarat Theater

The Wildlife Conflict Unit is a dedicated group of people that works out conflicts between humans and animals. "Mission Possible" is a live animal show that chronicles their stories at the Ballarat Theater in the Zoo's Australian Adventure area. The show features a storyline that teaches visitors of all ages the need to take care of the environment and protect animals. Birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians from all over Australia play a key role in getting the message across.

"Mission Possible" can be seen daily at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Australian Adventure can be accessed through the Wallaby Walkabout near the Boomerang Express train station.

And so much more ...

- Summer Day Camp at the Zoo, for children ages 5 to 12, offers one- and two-week programs from June through August and includes tours of exhibits, educational games, crafts and more.
- The Zoo accommodates school field trips year-round at no cost to schools in Cuyahoga County. Admission is waived and teachers may make arrangements to schedule one of the Zoo's special educational programs for their students.
- Free daytime school programs for first through third graders make learning fun and reinforce scientific concepts that are a part of local schools' curriculum.
- Dr. Z's Traveling Animal Show visits area schools from November through March, teaching students about science and giving them an up-close look at some of the Zoo's animals.
- Teachers' workshops help local educators brush up on animal science skills and develop ideas for activities that will help their students meet testing requirements.
- The Zoo's Volunteer Program recruits 400 people a year to serve as interpreters and lead educational activities. A similar Zoo Crew team includes 70 local teens sharing their time and talent to make Zoo visitors' experiences more enjoyable and educational.