



Frequently asked questions about Snooze at the Zoo Programs

Q: Where do we sleep when we spend the night at the Zoo?

A: Weather dependant you will sleep outside in the heart of the Zoo! We have a new green space located at the end of Chain-of-Lakes and before the stairs leading to Big Cat Country. This unique experience offers a chance to hear the Sea Lions, Peacocks, and Big Cats talk in the evening and in the morning. We do not use tents; we truly do sleep under the stars. You will need to bring a sleeping bag and sleeping pad (foam pad or therma-rest).

Q: Does the overnight staff stay overnight with the participants?

A: Yes, our staff will sleep in the same areas as the participants and are there to offer assistance in any sick scout/emergency situations.

Q: What should we bring for our overnight stay?

A: Participants should pack lightly. You will need a sleeping bag, pillow, sleeping pad, and necessary toiletries. Participants should come showered and wearing comfortable clothing that they can wear during the program and while sleeping. We have limited bathroom space and no shower facilities/locker rooms, so we prefer participants to not change cloths. An evening snack and continental breakfast are provided so we ask participants not to bring food unless for dietary reasons. You should bring a water bottle, which you can refill throughout the night (labeling your water bottle is always a good idea). You should also bring bug spray as the evening hours are inviting to our mosquito friends.

Q: What kind of animals do we see during the live animal class?

A: Staff will use animals from the Children's Zoo for the live animal presentation. Depending on the theme of the program and what animals are available presentations could include a bird, reptile, amphibian, mammal, or invertebrate.

Q: How many adults should attend this program with our troop/den/pack?

A: We ask that small groups of scouts, twelve scouts or less, attend with a minimum of two adults. Larger groups of scouts, twelve scouts or more, attend with a minimum of one adult per six scouts.

Q: We have a small troop/den/pack, can we still attend?

A: Yes, groups of all sizes can attend. We ask that troops/dens/packs with two or more scouts follow the guidelines listed above. If your troop/den/pack is small and only one scout is attending this program, the scout will need to attend the program with a parent or guardian.

Q: Will the program cancel if it is raining?

A: Summer weather is always hard to predict. If the forecast calls for scattered showers we will often run the program and sleep inside if need be. If the forecast calls for severe thunderstorms we often cancel and you will receive a full refund. We understand some troops travel a great distance and we do our best to cancel by noon (no later than 3 p.m.). It is recommended to bring rain gear no matter what, again mid-west weather is hard to predict and rain happens very suddenly and sometimes without much warning.