

Stone Zoo Field Trips 2024-2025



NEW ENGLAND

Franklin Park Zoo • Stone Zoo

Planning ahead

Stone Zoo offers FREE admission to Massachusetts school children who visit during scheduled field trips that are reserved in advance. Field trips must be booked at least **two weeks** before.

Eligibility

Are students always free at the Zoo?

Only if the teacher has a confirmed reservation. The free field trip program is in effect on regular school days from Sept. - June. Free trips **do not** extend to home schools, daycares, after school programs, camps or out-of-state schools.

Chaperones

The Zoo requires a specific ratio of adults to children. A chaperone is an adult - teacher, assistant, parent - on the field trip responsible for overseeing a group of children. Please note, teachers are NOT automatically free. Any adult beyond the ratios listed below require paid admission.

Free adults per student group.

Grade(s)	Ratio
K	1 adult per 5 students
1-12	1 adult per 10 students
Special Needs	1 adult per 1 student

Additional adults \$17.95 each

How to reserve a field trip

- 1 Visit zoonewengland.org/groups
- 2 Click on "Massachusetts School Groups"
- 3 Complete the school group reservation form
- 4 You will receive a confirmation within one week. Bring the form with you on the day of your visit.
- 5 Have any fees due ready by your trip date. Trips must be paid in full to gain entry to the Zoo.

How do I know if I will owe anything?

Your confirmation gives an estimate of your fees. This estimate is for planning purposes only. The group leader is responsible for completing the confirmation paperwork based on their day-of attendance. Additional children not in the class (ex: siblings) or additional adults are not included in the group reservation and must pay full admission price.

How do I pay for extra adults?

Extra adults beyond the free chaperone ratio can receive a discounted admission ONLY IF you pay for them in one transaction at the gate on the day of your visit. Adults arriving separately will have to pay the FULL adult price. Payments can be made using cash, check, or credit card. Credit cards are strongly preferred. Checks should be made payable to Zoo New England. **ZNE does NOT typically invoice or bill for field trip fees, for any exceptions you must contact us ahead of your visit.**

Please note: Zoo New England memberships cannot be used for field trip admission.





At the Zoo

Entry

Where will we enter the Zoo?

Zoo entry for field trips at Stone Zoo is restricted to the main entrance. The entrance is located at 149 Pond Street, Stoneham, MA.

Where can we park at the Zoo?

Parking at the zoo is free. Buses may drop off students at the entrance and then park at the back of the parking lot. Buses are not permitted in regular parking spaces as we do not have capacity for larger vehicles.

Your bus driver must know when and where to meet you when your trip is over. You must have a contact number for your bus driver to easily locate them during pickup. Bus drivers are allowed to wait for you inside the Zoo during your trip, but any guests with them will have to pay full admission price.

Please note: *On days with higher group attendance, coordinating your group exit may be challenging and you may experience delays.*

Lunches

What about lunches?

There is no storage available for lunches on Zoo grounds. Food can also be purchased at the Zoo individually or through our lunch voucher program. Lunch vouchers offer a discounted rate for meals at the Zoo.*

Where can we have lunch?

There are a number of picnic areas available throughout the Zoo. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Private tents are available for rent, **but must be reserved ahead of time.***

*Additional fees apply

First Aid and Lost Guests at the Zoo

First Aid is provided by the Zoo's Security team. *In case of emergency or if you require assistance, please ask a Zoo staff member or volunteer to notify security.* Zoo Security officers can also assist if you become separated from a student in your group. To reunite you with your group more quickly, it is helpful to have students wearing similar outfits, or carrying cards with essential information and school contact phone numbers.



Many of our animals will hide if there is loud noise outside their enclosures. Please remind students to be respectful and to limit loud chatter for the best possible visit!

Accessibility Needs

Are wheelchairs available?

Yes, they are available for a \$5 rental fee at each Zoo entrance gate. You will need to provide a photo ID for the duration of use.

Is there a private space for someone who requires feeding assistance?

If someone requires a private space for nursing or to use a feeding tube, please let us know at the time of booking and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Is the Zoo sensory friendly?

Yes. Zoo New England is Sensory Inclusive Certified. Quiet Zones and Headphone Zones are designated throughout the Zoo.

We may have sensory bags available at the admissions booth. They are free to rent, but you will need to provide a photo ID for the admissions booth to hold during your rental period.

Rules & Policies

Please adhere to the following policies while on Zoo grounds:

ALL students visiting as part of a school group must be directly supervised by adult chaperones regardless of students' ages.

Do not yell or throw things at the animals, bang on their exhibits, or otherwise harass them. These behaviors will not be tolerated.

Animals may have access to off-exhibit areas during the day and may not always be visible.

Do not feed the animals. All of the Zoo's animals are on special diets. Outside food and other objects can be harmful for them.

Refrain from running, shouting, pushing, or using offensive language.

Observe all posted signs, stay on marked pathways, and respect all barriers.

Smoking (including e-cigarettes and vaporizers) and use of other tobacco products are prohibited on Zoo property. Smoking is only permitted outside of Zoo gates.

Please help keep the Zoo clean by placing litter in the proper trash/recycling receptacles.

Do not attempt to retrieve any items that fall into an exhibit. Zoo staff will retrieve it for you.

If you become separated from a student in your group, please find a Zoo staff member or volunteer who will alert Zoo Security.

No items from animals (ex: feathers) may be taken from the Zoo.

Banned items

The following items are not permitted in the Zoo:

- Straws
- Glass bottles
- Bikes
- Scooters
- Skateboards
- Balloons
- Balls
- Frisbees
- Squirt guns
- Whistles
- Alcohol
- Loud speakers
- Pets*

*Pets are **NOT** allowed on Zoo grounds. Service animals trained to perform specific tasks are allowed.

Please don't leave pets in parked vehicles while visiting the Zoo.



Don't forget to prepare your students!
It's recommended that they wear hats
and have water on those warm sunny days.



Student Programs

Book an interactive student program to make your class visit WILD!

Additional fees apply

We have two types of student programs available. Please refer to our full programming at zoonewengland.org/discover/school-programs for student program descriptions and more details.

Education programs

These 30-minute programs allow students to meet an ambassador animal and learn about the specific topic of interest. After the 30-minute program, students are provided a self-guided activity that relates to the topic and allows them to apply it as they explore the zoo.

Zoo inquiries

These 60-minute programs are a hands-on learning experience with the educators playing a more active role in the included activities. Students are participating in an activity rather than doing it after the program on their own. This program also includes an animal encounter, but no self-guided activity is provided after the program. Due to materials and prep work required, these programs are currently at the Zoo only.

Program Guidelines

Due to the animals' availability or health, we cannot guarantee which animal ambassadors we will bring to each student program.

Animals we bring align with the topic and information covered. Participants may observe the animal ambassadors but are not permitted to touch.

We rely on chaperones and teachers to help maintain a quiet and calm space.

Class size information

We can accommodate groups of up to 30 participants, which includes students, teachers and chaperones.

Program Pricing

Education Program
 At the zoo \$100
 At your school \$140

Zoo Inquiry
 At the zoo \$200
 At your school N/A

MCAS

All student programs are aligned with age-appropriate life science MCAS standards.

Education programs

Program name	Grades
Zooper Senses	PreK - 2nd
Not so Scary Snakes	PreK - 2nd
Scales, Fur or Feathers?	PreK - 2nd
Hungry, Hungry Animals	PreK - 2nd
ZooKeepers	PreK - 2nd
Wild Neighbors	PreK - 2nd
Where in the World?	3rd - 5th
Animal's Got Talent	3rd - 5th
Endangered Animals	3rd - 5th
Circle of Life	3rd - 5th
Friend or Foe	6th - 8th
Animal Geneology	6th - 8th
Cretaceous Comparisons	6th - 8th

Zoo inquiries

Program name	Grades
Zoo Art	Any
Talking with Animals	3rd - 5th
Zoo Investigations: Skeleton Clues	3rd - 8th
Zoo Careers: Animal Behavior	6th - 8th
CSI: Animal Kingdom	6th - 8th
Zoo Careers: Zoo Chef	6th - HS
Zoo Careers: Operant Conditioning & Positive Reinforcement	High School

Please note that all education programs are reserved and paid for separately from entry admissions.

