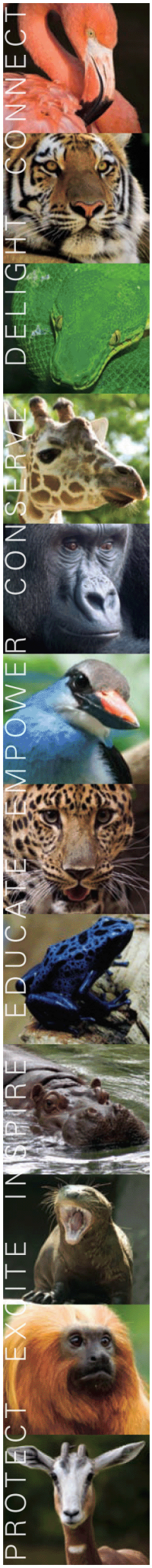


PHILADELPHIA ZOO

3400 West Girard Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19104-1196
215-243-1100
philadelphiazoo.org

Chaperone Tips:

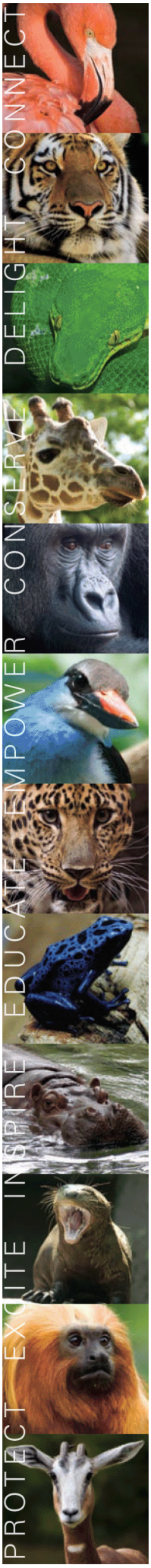
Dear Chaperone –
Thank you for offering to spend the day with your child's group at the Philadelphia Zoo. Chaperones are an integral part of a successful field trip. It is an important responsibility and you can help to make the group's experience **safe, fun and educational.** The Zoo requires a minimum of one Chaperone for every 10 students. Chaperones must be 21 years of age or older.

What are the responsibilities of the Chaperone?

- Know the names of all your students
- Know the location of your students at all times – chaperones must stay with their students at all times
- Assist students who have an emergency by notifying Zoo staff
- Prevent students from chasing or feeding any animals, including free-ranging peacocks, geese, ducks and squirrels
- Do not allow students to drop or throw things into a Zoo exhibit, or disturb animals by tapping on the glass
- Help students dispose of trash and recyclables
- Ensure your students act in a respectful manner to Zoo staff and visitors

How do you prepare for the field trip?

- Talk to the teacher before the trip to better understand you responsibilities
- Wear comfortable clothes and shoes, bring a water bottle – you will be doing a great deal of walking
- Know the students in your group and make sure they know your name too
- Bring a cell phone to use **in case of an emergency only** – be sure to obtain an emergency phone number from the teacher before you arrive at the Zoo.
- Write down meeting times, lunch time/location, and bus information



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If one of your students gets lost or injured, speak to any member of the Philadelphia Zoo staff for assistance. You may also use one of our red emergency phones located throughout the Zoo and highlighted on our map.

Suggestions to engage your students while at the zoo:

- Have them read signs to you
- Ask them questions – you don't need to be an animal expert!
    - For example – if the sign says polar bears live where it is cold, ask your students what they think they might need to survive the cold? (I.e. heavy coats). The ask them to see if the polar bear has these things.
- Make your own mini-scavenger hunt!
    - For example – ask them to find five animals that live in Africa. Or three animals that are black and white
- Ask them to make connections about adaptions!
    - For example – Orangutans have long arms why might that be helpful? (move through trees, reach fruit)
- Have them choose a favorite animal in each area and tell you why