



**I'M GOING ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE
COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM!**

SOCIAL STORY

When arriving to the Zoo, we are going to have to pay for parking. When the Zoo is very busy, there may be a wait to get to the parking booth and pay. I may have to be patient.



Once the car is parked in the big lot, we can look to see if the shuttle is available. If it is running, our family can decide to wait to ride it at one of the stops, or we can walk to the Zoo entrance. I will need to hold the hand of an adult and watch for cars coming into the parking lot.



When we get to the front of the Zoo, the first stop is Evolv. I will walk through the gray dividers and listen to directions. Security will let me know if they need to check our bag. They are making sure the Zoo is safe. If it is busy, I can be patient and wait my turn.



To get into the Zoo, we will have to buy tickets at the ticket booths. There may be a line to buy tickets, but I will have to stay patient while we wait for our turn.



After getting our tickets, we will walk to the entrance. There may be another line here to get into the Zoo and I will have to wait patiently again. A Zoo staff member will scan our tickets and we will enter the Zoo. When I am waiting in the plaza, there are restrooms outside of the Zoo if I need them.



Inside the main entrance there are restrooms, places to get a snack and drink, and gift shops. I will ask an adult if I want to use the restroom or look at the other buildings. I can also view the big Zoo map by the Lake.



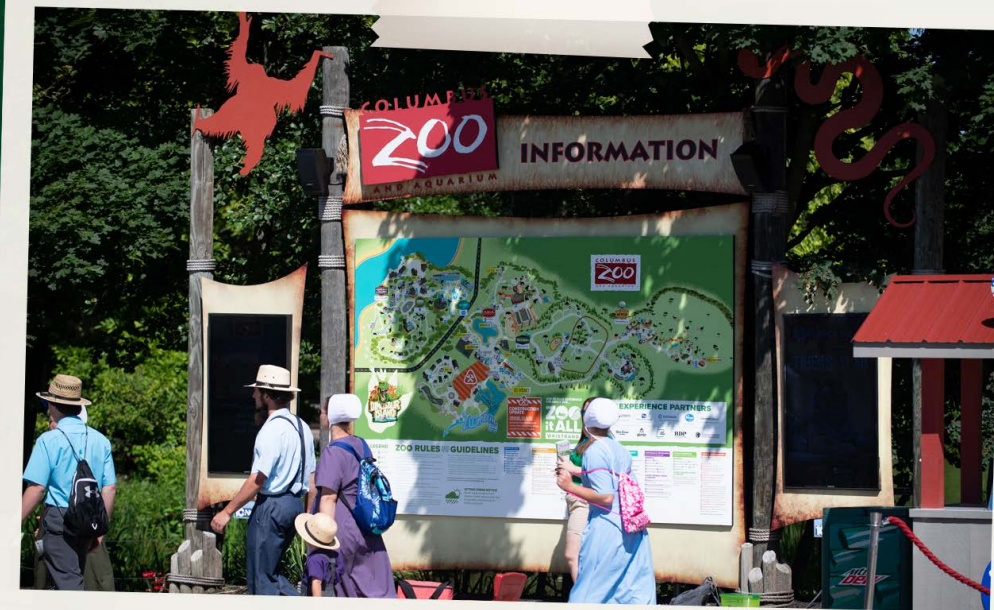
When walking through the entrance of the Zoo, a Zoo staff member may approach me and my family. They often want to take our picture. My family can have their picture taken, or we can politely decline and continue to walk into the Zoo.



I will stay with my family when visiting the Zoo.
The Zoo can get very busy. If I cannot find my family,
I will find a Zoo staff member or volunteer dressed in
a blue, black, red, or green shirt with the Columbus Zoo
and Aquarium logo and badge. They can help me.



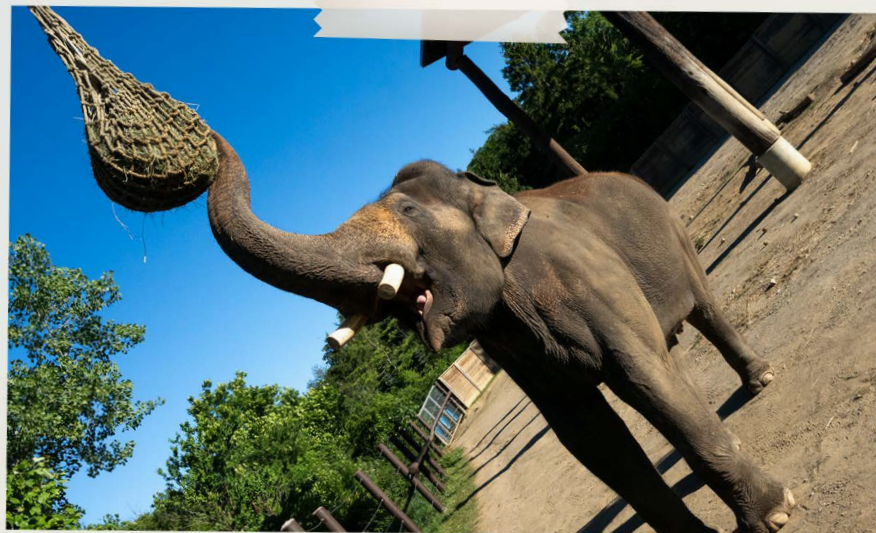
The Zoo is a very large place. There are eight main areas. Before I come to the Zoo, I may look on the website to plan what animals I would like to see. I may not have time to see all of the animals and some animals may not be available. That is okay.



While exploring the Zoo, I will be more likely to see animals if I observe quietly. I may have to wait my turn to see an animal if it is busy.



In certain areas of the Zoo, it may be very loud.
I may need to use my hands or headphones to cover
my ears. In other areas, there can be a very strong
smell. I may need to leave the area or plug my nose.
I will tell an adult how I am feeling, and we can find
an area that makes me feel more calm.



Throughout the Zoo, there are places where we can sit down and enjoy a snack. If I am hungry or thirsty, I will tell an adult and we can make a decision together about what we should do next. If we choose to eat at a place with inside seating, it can get loud. I may want to cover my ears or use headphones.



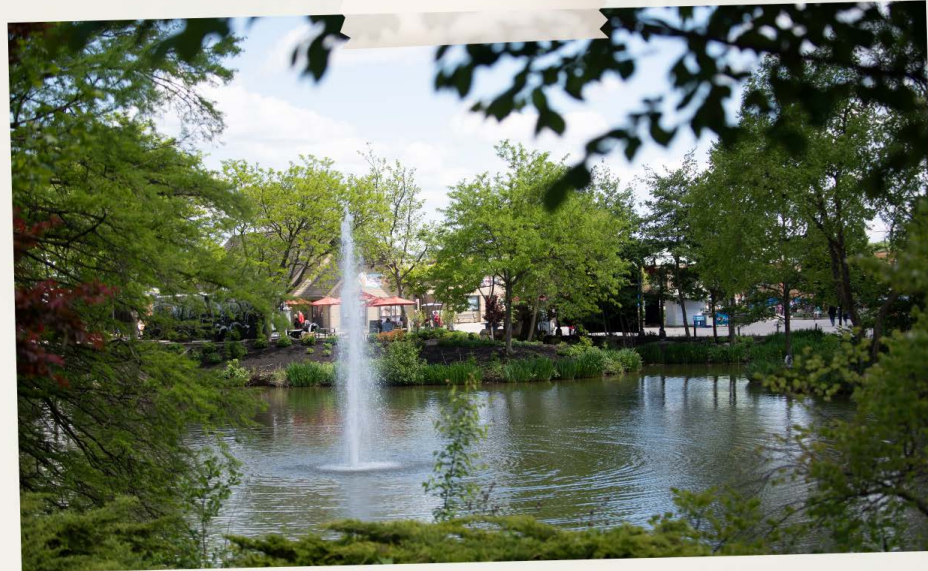
There are many restrooms throughout the Zoo.
If I need to use the restroom, I will tell an adult and
we will find the nearest one. The automatic hand dryers
and the toilets flushing can be loud. I may need to cover
my ears or use my headphones. There are also family
restrooms available throughout the Zoo.



If I get tired, I can find one of many benches around the Zoo and sit and have a break with my family.



If I feel I need a quiet break from the busy Zoo,
I will tell an adult and we will look at the Zoo's Sensory
Maps to find an area. We can also ask a Zoo staff member
or a volunteer for a place to go.



There are two big gift shops near the entrance and exit of the Zoo. If I want to go in, I will ask an adult. It may be loud so I may need to cover my ears or use my headphones. I also may not be able to buy something during each visit and that is okay.



Once my family has decided it is time to leave, we will walk towards the exit and walk back to our car together. I may want to hold a hand again while in the parking lot. Hopefully I can visit the Zoo again soon!





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