



Animal Expert Lesson 2025

Enhance your visit to Binder Park Zoo with educational classroom presentations that will help your group connect to the animal world here at the Zoo!

- \$100 for each 30-minute session
- Programs are scheduled to take place within the hours of 8:00am-5:00pm EST. Any sessions scheduled from 5:00pm-8:00pm will have one additional evening charge of \$35 added.
- 50 maximum participants per session
- Pre-payment and registration are required and a confirmation will be sent via email
- We will discuss your preferred topic and present two animals during the session.
- Topics offered:
 - **Animal Story Time:** Calling all readers! Gather round for an exciting reading of a book about animals and nature. Afterward, the story will come to life as we meet a couple animals that relate to the story.
 - **Circle of Life:** From the smallest blade of grass to the strongest predator, all life is necessary to keep the world's ecosystem in balance. Using live animals and bio-facts, students will learn how all these animals fit together in the global food web.
 - **Classy Animals:** Feathers, scales, fur, or slime; lay eggs or give live birth; breathe through gills or lungs? How can animals be so different yet so alike? With the aid of different props, students will discover the characteristics of five different animal classes and the one characteristic they all share.
 - **Conservation Corner:** We'll help students learn about turning everyday items into reusable treasures as we explore the many different ways to reduce, reuse, or repurpose items at home to save wildlife.
 - **Dressed for Survival:** What helps different animals survive in their unique habitats? We will look deeper at the animals and the awesome adaptations they are all dressed in.
 - **Endangered Species:** Covers species here at Binder Park Zoo that are endangered, the causes and where they fall on the IUCN Red List. Explores Species Survival Plans (SSP) and how zoos work together to ensure the continuation of different animal species.
 - **Exhibit Design:** Designing an exhibit for an animal to live in at a zoo takes a lot of planning. Students will learn about the things that need to be considered to make sure the zoo animals are safe and healthy.
 - **Fact or Fiction:** Do we really swallow spiders while we sleep? Will touching a toad give you warts? Do elephants remember everything? Discuss strange animal facts and common myths in a game of Fact or Fiction and take a closer look at some of the unusual animals that are often misrepresented in many different tall tales.
 - **Habitats of the World:** Take an exciting trip around the world and learn about many different habitats. What is it like in the tropical rainforest and what animals live there? What about the grasslands, forests and mountains? With the help of animals

from around the world, students discover the ways they survive in their very special habitats.

- **In our Own Backyard:** It's fun to learn about animals and habitats in other parts of the world, but what about the animals that live right here in North America? Discover some interesting animals close to home when you meet some of the animals found right "In Our Own Backyard."
- **Nature at Night:** When the sun goes down and we go to sleep, another world awakens. Meet some nocturnal animals and learn how they are specially adapted for life in the dark.
- **Rainforest Wonders:** The rainforests of the world contain more than half of all life on the planet. Learn about the amazing biodiversity of rainforests and why we depend on them for survival while meeting some animals that call this unique habitat home.
- **What's for Lunch?** This program looks at what animals eat in the wild as well as what we feed them here at the zoo. We will talk about herbivores, omnivores and carnivores and how we meet their dietary and instinctual needs.
- **Suitcase for Survival:** Students will learn about conservation laws, the international wildlife trade and get the opportunity to see actual products confiscated from people who violated laws intended to protect vanishing species.