

Oglebay Good Zoo Preschool Program

Parent's Guide

Program Registration

Pre-registration, including payment, is required for all preschool programs. Because supplies are prepared ahead of time and other related factors, walk-in registrations are available on a limited basis. Due to the nature of the preschool classes, the number of participants is limited. The zoo suggests registering as far in advance as possible to ensure placement in the program. If a class is filled, the zoo will keep a wait-list and contact those on the list (in order of date received) when a cancellation occurs.

Registrations can be made:

Online: <https://oglebay.com/good-zoo/camps-programs-activities/>

By Phone: Call the zoo office at 304-243-4100 or education department at 304-243-4068

By Mail: Complete the appropriate registration form and mail along with payment to:

Good Zoo Education Department

Oglebay's Good Zoo

465 Lodge Drive

Wheeling, WV 26003

In Person: Visit the main zoo office between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily.

The preschool registration fee includes one adult with a child. Siblings of the appropriate age attending the preschool programs are admitted at a reduced rate. Please do not attempt to enroll children in the preschool programs who are not in the appropriate age range. In order to create the most effective learning experience for the participants, the zoo requests that only children enrolled in the program attend. Infants will be permitted if they do not disrupt the program or the other participants. To be fair to those paying for the program, only paid participants are provided with art supplies, animal contact, or any other programming component. Zoo admission is included with the registration fees.

Good Zoo Members will receive a 35% discount on registration fees.

Arrival and Play Dates

Classes will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. The zoo does not open until 11 a.m. during most months of the year. If you arrive after 10:30 a.m., please ring the buzzer to the left of the entry doors. A team member will let you in as soon as they are available. Classes will begin in the classroom located on the lower level of the main zoo building.

Participants may arrive ½ hour prior to the preschool program (10 a.m.) for a play date. The zoo will provide toys, coloring pages, etc. that the children/parents may use for self-guided activities until the beginning of class. The zoo will provide coffee for parents.

What to Wear

Activities can sometimes get messy, so play clothes are preferred. Tennis shoes are recommended. Some classes will have an outdoor component, so please dress for the weather.

Instructors

Our preschool instructors are either full or part-time education team at the zoo. The zoo's curator of education has a master's degree in education. Many of our instructors have teaching certificates and/or degrees in biology or education. All educators are trained in CPR and first aid. Our instructors are carefully selected, screened, and trained. The zoo will not guarantee any particular instructor for any program.

Weather

Classes will be held rain or shine. Winter weather may cause cancellations or delays. Should the weather be a concern, please **call 304-243-4068 AFTER 9 a.m.** on the morning of the program. The message on the machine will announce if the class has been cancelled or postponed. If there is no mention of a cancellation or postponement, the class will be held as scheduled.

Classes may be cancelled or postponed if the roadways and parking lots through Oglebay are untreated. Please call the number above on the day of the program if you have any doubt as to the status of the program.

Should the zoo cancel a program, you will have your choice of receiving a full refund for the cancelled program, being scheduled into a "make-up" session, or being scheduled into another program during the current series of classes.

Please be sure to include your correct email and phone number on the registration form so we can contact you if necessary.

Illness

For the well-being of other participants, please do not bring a child that is ill or has a fever to class. Should your child be ill, refer to the refund policy below.

Preschool Cancellation and Refund Policy

The zoo reserves the right to cancel any program for any reason. If the zoo cancels a program, participants will be notified by email and/or phone at least 24 hours prior to the program's start time. (Cancellations or delays due to weather issues may be made on shorter notice.) Participants in any program cancelled by the zoo will be given the opportunity to schedule into another open session (of equal value) during the current series of classes, attend a "make-up session", or receive a full refund.

Payment for all programs is required at the time of registration. If you cancel a registration 2 days or more prior to the start date, you will receive a 50% refund or you may schedule into another available session during the current series of programs. **If you fail to cancel 2 or more days prior to the program, or you are a "no show", there is no refund issued and fees are not transferable.**

What to expect

Preschool programs at the Good Zoo are a great way for parents or grandparents to explore nature and wildlife with their children. The programs, which are for 2-4 year olds, are designed using the Content Standards and Learning Criteria for West Virginia Pre-Kindergarten. Each program is one hour in length and includes art, music, and physical movement activities. Classes will also be visited by an animal ambassador or go to a specific area of the zoo for animal viewing. The animal visiting the program will be one of our education animals and the species will not be guaranteed.