

Zoo Atlanta Overnight Trip/Leader & Participant Information:

What You Need To Know About Group NightCrawler Overnights:

When all the zookeepers have gone home and the animals have drifted off to sleep, the only things stirring at Zoo Atlanta are... NIGHTCRAWLERS! Since 1989, Zoo Atlanta has given children and adults throughout the Southeast a unique opportunity to learn about zoos, their inhabitants and wildlife conservation. Our fundamental goal is to provide you and your group with an educational and entertaining adventure that we are certain you will not soon forget.

Please review the following information carefully to help prepare your group for this exciting experience! We look forward to your visit!

Reservations Timeline & Policies

No-Show & Credit Voucher Policies: Credit vouchers good towards other Zoo Atlanta Education programs are granted for partial group no-shows. Customer must request voucher by emailing education@zoatlanta.org

NightCrawler Information

General: The minimum age for participants is 6 years old. Programs are not appropriate for younger children.

For logistical and security reasons, 7 p.m. is the cutoff time for late arrivals.

Anyone leaving during the evening will not be able to return to the group. Acceptable leave times are between 10 and 11 p.m. and after 7a.m.

****Our arrival/meeting time is 5 PM** so that we can divide our group into smaller groups of 25 or less (including children and adults) prior to entering the Zoo.

What to Bring: Each participant will need:

- a sleeping bag and a pillow
- weather-appropriate clothing (This is an all-weather event, so please come prepared)
- comfortable, closed-toe walking shoes, as we will be hiking all over Zoo Atlanta.

***** What Not to Bring:**

- Air mattresses are discouraged, because they cramp sleeping areas.
- Flip-flops and sandals should not be worn, as they will prevent the group from entering certain behind-the-scenes areas that are normally part of the program.
- Children may not bring flashlights; however, adults may carry flashlights as long as they do not use them during indoor programs.
- For the safety of the animals, gum and beverages with straws are not allowed.
- Please do not bring electronics, including radios, televisions, mp3 players, video games, etc.

Parking:

- *Carpools will be necessary.* The zoo has space for 1 car per 5 participants in secured parking. Your vehicle is ultimately your responsibility and Zoo Atlanta is not responsible for damages to vehicles or personal property.
- If participants will be dropped off individually, call at least two weeks prior to your overnight and make arrangements.
- Your group will park in the C-1 lot noted by the lion icon **or** the C-5 lot indicated by the frog icon on the attached map. We will be advised in advance which parking lot our group will be utilizing - *look for future e-mail notices.****

Accommodations:

Sleeping areas include Base Camp Discovery, Conservation Center, Conservation ARC, and The Living Treehouse. Each facility is a short, well-lit walk to restrooms, and each facility is climate-controlled with available power outlets. There are no shower facilities available at Zoo Atlanta.

Meals:

Please eat dinner before arriving at Zoo Atlanta. The zoo will provide a *small* snack; bring additional snacks if desired, but remember that gum or beverages with straws are not allowed. There is no storage for snacks, etc., but coolers are permitted.

The zoo will provide a continental breakfast, including various cereals, bagels and cream cheese, blueberry muffins, yogurt, and juices. If you or members of your group have allergies or special dietary needs, please bring appropriate foods and snacks.

Important Phone Numbers: Emergency/Security: 404.624.5670

Program Schedule:

5:00 p.m. Arrive at the NightCrawler parking lot (a map will be provided prior to the event). Please note which of the two secure parking lots we will be utilizing.

5:45 p.m. We enter the zoo as a group.

6:30 p.m. Evening activities begin, including tours of the World of Reptiles and Animal Nutrition Kitchen, an animal encounters (*Note: Certain animals are designated as touchable. If these animals are available for programs, touching will be permitted. Animal encounters occur in classroom programs; no specific animal requests can be guaranteed. Be sure participants wash their hands after the program*), and themed activities.

We will be participating in the “Zoo Tech” program: Rediscover Zoo Atlanta with the help of technology! Students use high-powered microscopes, night vision scopes and other technologies to explore the exciting life all around us.

7:00 p.m. Cutoff for late arrivals. Anyone arriving after 7pm will NOT be admitted to the park.

10:00 p.m. Evening program ends; prepare for bed.

11:00 p.m. Lights out

7:00 a.m. Wake up

7-8a.m Buses should be available by this time. Load all luggage and personal belongings back into your vehicles. Clean up sleeping locations: pick up all trash and tidy up classrooms. LEAVE NO TRACE.

8:00 a.m. Quick Continental Breakfast. *Remember, you may bring coolers and your own food.*

8:30 a.m. Begin our private guided tour of Zoo Atlanta - *before* the zoo opens to the public.

10:30 a.m. NightCrawlers conclude at the Zoo Atlanta Trading Company. After visiting the Gift Shop, please stop by the front entrance to find out about exciting public programs scheduled that day. *You are welcome to stay as long as you wish and explore the zoo for the rest of the day.*

Souvenirs : Unfortunately, time does not allow the opportunity to buy souvenirs or film during the NightCrawler program. However, your NightCrawler instructor will lead you to the Gift Shop at the end of the morning tour, *where you will receive 10% off all items in the Gift Shop with your nametag.*

*****Parent, Group Leader, Den Leader & Chaperone Guidelines:**

1. All chaperones must be at least 18 years of age.
2. Review the above NightCrawlers Information with all participants. Chaperones are responsible for the management of participants and enforcement of rules. It is difficult for instructors to stop programming to discipline participants.
3. All students and chaperones must stay with groups at all times. No one may remain behind in classrooms, cars or other locations.
4. After lights out, a chaperone must accompany students to and from the bathroom.
5. If you (adults only!) need to bring cell phones to your overnight, please silence them during programs.
6. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
7. In compliance with the Georgia Smokefree Air Act of 2005, Zoo Atlanta has become a smoke-free zoo for the safety of our animals and guests. Smoking is not permitted during NightCrawlers.
8. Chaperones are responsible for all medical needs of their group. First aid and biohazard kits are available with needed supplies - Scouts: please also bring your own appropriate first aid kits. Chaperones are also required to clean up after any child who becomes sick.
9. Zoo Atlanta prohibits pets and other animals within the Zoo. Guests with pets will not be permitted inside the gates.
10. Firearms and other weapons are not permitted inside Zoo Atlanta.
11. If you have any questions, please contact the Reservations Center at 404.624.5852 or email education@zooatlanta.org. You may also contact Michele Blomgren at mblomgren_2000@yahoo.com or Marci Moore at georgiaskydiver@gmail.com.

Thank you, and we look forward to an EXCITING AND GREAT EVENT!!

NightCrawlers at Zoo Atlanta:

NightCrawler parking is located in two locations indicated by the **LION & FROG** icons. Participants will be advised in advance as to which parking lot our group will be utilizing. *Please do not arrive to the front gate of Zoo Atlanta.*

DIRECTIONS AND FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED AS WE GET CLOSER TO THIS EVENT. STAY TUNED!!