

Hemker Park & Zoo School Group FAQ

Zoo Admission for School Groups

- Discounted admission is available please contact us for more information.
- Payment is collected at admission time. We accept cash, school check or credit card (No personal checks).

Checking In/Group Size

- Once you arrive at the zoo, we ask only the teacher to check in with staff. From there we will tell you where to go for your welcome introduction.
- Please arrange one chaperone for every ten students. It is important that students stay with chaperones during your visit to the zoo.
- Teachers & Chaperones are responsible for student conduct.

Bus Parking

- Buses will park in the front parking area. If parking lot is full please park in the overflow area.

Lunches for School Groups

- Your group is welcome to bring bag lunched into our picnic area.
- We do have Hungry Paws Concessions that sells hot food, treats, snacks & beverages.

Gift Shop

- Students are welcome to shop the gift shop area with a chaperone. Please allow plenty of time to shop, an hour before your departure time is suggested. Food & Beverages are not allowed in gift shop area.

Giraffe/Budgie/Otter/Rhino Encounters

- Students can participate in the feeding encounters. There are **additional fees** for these encounters. If this is something your group would like to know please let us know ahead of time so we can have the items ready for your group. Please talk with staff when making your reservation or prior to visiting.
- The feeding encounters are a unique and fun experience to add to your visit!
- There are 50 cent machines throughout the zoo. You are welcome to feed the animals. No outside food can be fed to the animals. You must follow all signs posted when feeding the animals.

First Aid

- Basic First Aid is available in the Gift Shop. For students with medical conditions or with severe allergic reactions, we recommend you bring your first aid kit and staff to assist their needs.

Bathrooms

- We have bathrooms located next to our tortoise area. There is a handicap bathroom in both the men and women.

Pathways

- Our paths are gravel and crush tar packed. Wheelchairs can go around the entire zoo
- We do have ramps into buildings and feeding deck areas



Safety of Students & Animals at Hemker Park & Zoo

1. Our Zoo is a peaceful haven for animals and people alike, loud noises and running are upsetting to everyone. We ask that students do not chase birds, shake on fencing or tap on glass exhibits. Please treat the animals with the respect they deserve. Remember this is their home.
2. Please make sure the students know not to feed the animals or throw anything into their habitats. Throwing objects into their exhibit can result in being removed from the zoo.
3. Stay on designated pathways, keep off rocks, do not cross or reach over fencing. Chaperones read all signs posted.
4. Remind students they need to be aware of how their behavior affects each other, the animals and the other visitors.
 - a. Must stay with assigned chaperones. No student can wander the zoo on their own.
 - b. Always walk. No Running, No Yelling
 - c. Place trash in proper containers
 - d. Keep your hands, body and objects away from animals and their enclosure
 - e. DO NOT pick flowers or climb on trees
 - f. Be courteous & respectful of other visitors.

Failure to properly supervise students may result in being denied admission or being asked to leave the Zoo.

Some Pointers to Enhance Your School Visit to Hemker Park & Zoo

- Students are generally very excited on field trips. They often tend to move too fast and the result is that they may miss a lot of interesting animal behavior and information.
- Try to slow students down through the exhibits and read the interpretive signs.
- Focus their energy by asking them observational questions about the animals and use the scavenger hunt we provide at introduction as a tool to asking questions.

