



"I appreciate how well this coordinates with our science standards."

- Katie Miller, Teacher, Sparta Area Schools



"It is always excellent, the presenters are wonderful, and the students love the animals."

- Patti Peltier, Teacher, Immaculate Heart of Mary

John Ball Zoo
Education Department
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JOHN BALL ZOO

SCHOOL PROGRAMS



New Zoo Explorer Tours!
Guided tours that give you the zoo to yourself



Wild Encounters and Traveling Zoos provide hands-on learning



Students can touch the rays at Stingray Lagoon.



Exhibits are designed for up-close viewing of animals.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS 2011-12

Make learning come alive for your students! John Ball Zoo offers a variety of programs that address Michigan GLCE's using inquiry-based, hands-on methods. You can visit the zoo on your own, attend a program at the zoo or let us bring the zoo right to your class.

Discounted Admission Rates

School groups that pre-register at least one week in advance receive a discounted student admission rate plus 1 free adult chaperone for every 5 paying students. The zoo will close November 1, 2011 and re-open March 1, 2012.

Wild Encounters at the Zoo

Let your students get a close encounter with animals while at the zoo. These animal encounter presentations give a classroom of students the chance to learn through a presentation of 3-4 program animals. Each 30-45 minute presentation is designed to teach about one of the core education topics listed. These are available when the zoo is open and include zoo admission with the program fee.

Zoo Explorer Tours

Join us for a 2-hour guided tour of the zoo that includes a hands-on animal encounter, guided indoor exploration and outdoor tours. Each program is designed to teach students about one of the core education topics marked with an asterisk**. These are available through December 1, 2011 and from March to mid-April, 2012. **Get the zoo to yourself - come when the zoo is closed weekdays Nov. 1-Dec. 1.**

Traveling Zoo

If you can't come to the zoo, let us bring it to you. These animal encounter presentations give a classroom of students the chance to learn about animals through a presentation of 3-4 program animals. Each 30-45 minute presentation is designed to teach students about one of the core education topics listed. These programs are available throughout the year.

Career Pathways

This multimedia presentation lets students learn how it takes a wide variety of talented people to make the zoo successful. These 45-60 minute presentations are designed for classes up to 30 students in grades 6-12.

Core Education Topics

****Animal Essentials:** Learn animals' basic needs and how they satisfy these needs to survive.

Michigan Wildlife: Explore the wild side of Michigan and learn more about the animals that might be right in your backyard.

Animal Senses: Explore your own senses as well as those that animals use to survive.

****Animal Classification:** Students learn how scientists group animals based on their similarities and differences.

Growing up Wild: We'll explore animals, their young and how they each grow up differently.

****Animal Adaptations:** Get an up-close look at the amazing physical and behavioral adaptations animals use to survive.

Predator-Prey: Learn about adaptations that help predators find prey and how potential prey avoid being eaten while exploring the relationships these animals have with each other.

****Connections:** Learn to recognize the connections between animals and plants, and how they affect the flow of energy through an ecosystem.

****Wildlife Conservation:** Learn what you can do and what others are doing to help protect wildlife and their habitats around the world.