

Ready for a Backstage Adventure

Chicago Zoological Society | Brookfield Zoo

Otter Adventure

Zoo admission and parking are NOT included in the Adventure price.

Greetings - Welcome to the Otter Adventure.

On this Otterly Amazing Adventure, you will have an opportunity to get up close and meet an otter. You will also learn about all about otters and how important they are to the health of our waterways.

First, you will first meet the animal care specialist in front of the otter habitat in Swamp. Next, you will be able to go behind the scenes and have an otter introduction. The care staff will demonstrate how they work with our otter through a training and safe feeding session.

Then, you will pick out some exciting enrichment with the staff to be placed on habitat. Animal care staff will further show how they train and you may have the chance to offer some fish via protected contact. The otter will be shifted back onto habitat and you will be able to observe how they interact with the enrichment you chose.

At the end of the Adventure, you will bid the otter farewell. The care staff will answer any additional questions you have as they guide you back to the public area of the building.



North American Otter

Accessibility

Not all of our programs are fully accessible, but at Brookfield Zoo we value the diversity of our guests and strive to facilitate the best connections with wildlife and nature possible. If you require any accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Customer Service Representative at **708-688-8430** Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or send us an e-mail at backstageadventures@czs.org.



North American River Otter

Being an animal care specialist takes careful preparation. Here are some things you need to know so that you can be prepared to work side by side with the animal care specialist.

Communication between you and the host care staff is crucial. You must be able to read, speak, and understand English without the use of an interpreter. If you are unable to participate in the program without an interpreter, please call (708) 688-8338.

You must be attentive. Although our animals regularly work with their human caregivers, they are still wild animals and their behavior is unpredictable. It is important that you pay close attention to the guidance and instructions of the animal care specialist you are spending the morning with. Never enter any animal area without direction from the care staff. Always wait for instructions and authorization from the staff before approaching any of the animals while participating in observation, care and enrichment, and feeding sessions. Participants must be able to maneuver within the behind the scenes habitat. Participants must wear a mask and wash their hands before the Adventure begins for the protection of the animals.

All participants are required to complete a signed liability waiver (page 4).

Frequently Asked Questions

These are some of the most commonly asked questions we get from our guests. If you think of something else or need clarification on anything in this packet, please don't hesitate to call 708-688-8430 or send us an e-mail at backstageadventures@czs.org.

Who can register for Otter Adventure?

- **Age**
Participants must be at least 12 years old. A parent or adult guardian must accompany participants under the age of 17. Please ensure you are putting the correct birthdate for each participant. Children under the age of 12 cannot participate in this Adventure. If a participant is not at least 12 years old, they may be refused participation and forfeit their registration fee.
- **Maximum Group Size**
Each Adventure is limited to 2 Participants.
- **Cost**
The cost for the Adventure is \$150.00 for one or two participants. It is the same cost, so you might as well bring a friend!

Can I take pictures during the program?

To keep the animals comfortable and to ensure the safety of all involved, we do not allow camera or cell phone use during Backstage Adventures. No photos can be taken in any non-public area.

Where do we meet?

An animal care specialist will meet you in front of the otter habitat in the Swamp building by 11:45 p.m. The habitat is located further inside the building. Please wait in this area until an animal care specialist meets with you, do not wander away. Your Adventure will start promptly at 12:00 p.m. and cannot be extended if you are late.

You must be on Time.

Since you will be participating with a scheduled public feeding this Adventure must start on time. If you are late, the adventure will proceed without you. Participants that do not show up for their registered session or choose to leave early will not be granted a refund. Refunds are only available 14 calendar days before the program date and there will be a non-refundable 25% deposit for each program.

Please be aware that though it is rare, Backstage Adventures can be cancelled by Brookfield Zoo at any time due to animal welfare, dangerous weather, or staff needs. If your program is cancelled, you will be contacted with as much notice as possible to schedule another date for your adventure.

Safety Precautions.

You will be required to wash your hands and wear a mask for the protection of the otter. Any refusal will mean your Adventure cannot proceed.

BROOKFIELD ZOO

Chicago Zoological Society



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Chicago Zoological Society

Otter Adventure Program Participant Waiver

I understand that I will be entering animal enclosures as part of the Otter Adventure (the "Program"). I UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROGRAM IS INHERENTLY DANGEROUS, AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THE CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, THE BROOKFIELD ZOO AND THEIR RESPECTIVE EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES, RELATED TO OR ARISING FROM THE PROGRAM.

I consent to the use of my likeness in photographic, digital or electronic media by the Chicago Zoological Society in connection with the Program.

I attest that I meet the following requirements for the Program:

- I am at least 12 years of age.
- I understand that if a participant appears to be far under the age of 12, they will not be allowed to participate in this adventure including forfeit of registration fees.
- I possess the ability to read, speak and understand English without the use of an interpreter.
- I understand that I must wear a mask (one will be provided if you do not have one) and will wash my hands before interacting on this Adventure.
- I understand that if I am 17 years old or younger, I must have a parent or guardian report to the Program with me for an introduction and sign my liability waiver.
- I will not enter an animal area without direction from the Animal Care staff and I will wait for instructions and authorization from the Animal Care staff before attempting to touch the animals.
- If I haven't done so prior to my arrival, I will remove all jewelry (smooth wedding bands excepted) prior to going to the exhibit area. Prescription lenses worn for vision correction are acceptable.
- I will not carry a personal camera.
- I understand that if I am under the influence of alcoholic beverages or any type of controlled substance I will forfeit my right to participate in the Shark Feeding Adventure.
- I attest that I am in good general health and physical condition, suitable for Program participation.

I understand that the Chicago Zoological Society reserves the right to cancel the Program at any time where the best interest of the animals is concerned. I also understand that it is the animal's choice to participate in the program. I understand that I will be removed from the Program for failure to comply with the established rules and guidelines as set forth here, as established by the Chicago Zoological Society and as communicated by the Animal Care staff members.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the above rules and agree to follow them and that the foregoing is true and accurate.

Please indicate the name and phone number of the individual who should be contacted in the case of emergency.

If participant is under 18 years of age, please indicate the names and phone numbers of individuals who have permission to pick up the participant from the Flying Feathered Friends program:

Guest Signature _____
(If under 18 years of age, must be signed by a parent or guardian)

Date _____