



Inspire conservation leadership and life-long learning in your classroom...
Apply for the Summer 2025 Teaching Safari!

FREE professional learning program for K-12 educators.
 Earn 2 semester hours graduate credit (Dominican University) or 35 professional development hours.
 Application window is open from February 1, 2025 through March 15, 2025 or until spaces are filled.
 Special consideration is given to educators from Title I and CPS schools.
 Please apply early; spaces fill quickly. To apply, visit brookfieldzoo.org/TeachingSafari.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

On the Brookfield Zoo Chicago Teaching Safari, you will:

- Enhance your content knowledge of conservation, animals, and ecosystems
- Explore effective, equity-minded classroom strategies to support student inquiry, critical thinking, conceptual understanding, argumentation based on evidence, student ownership, and engagement in all subject areas
- Discover new ways to develop conservation awareness in your students and to enrich learning through Zoo resources and exhibits
- Reflect on your classroom practice, engage in discussion with other educators, and receive individualized, written feedback from experienced Zoo educator program facilitator on a lesson plan that you create and revise during this program•
- Connect and expand your professional learning community by becoming a part of the Brookfield Zoo Chicago Teaching Safari Network and enjoy free registrations for designated online and in-person professional development events

Teaching Safari participants who complete all course requirements may elect to receive 35 free professional development hours OR two (2) free graduate semester hours from Dominican University.* Participants who complete the Safari will also receive a Certificate of Completion from Brookfield Zoo Chicago and four (4) complimentary Zoo passes.

Content and strategies explored on the Teaching Safari are informed by Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), Common Core State Standards (CCSS), and the Danielson Framework.

The Teaching Safari consists of four full-day, onsite sessions at Brookfield Zoo Chicago and two 60-minute virtual sessions. In addition to attending and participating in these classes, participants will (1) engage in ongoing reflection on professional growth, and (2) create and revise a lesson plan applying program content to practice.

** IEIN number, documentation of attendance at all sessions per Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) guidelines, and completion of reflections/lesson plans per rubric are required for professional development hours or semester-hour credit. Certificate, Zoo passes, and network benefits will be awarded upon completion of all program requirements.*



DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY
dom.edu

Contact

To register, please visit
brookfieldzoo.org/TeachingSafari
 For more information, contact **Patricia Steinmeyer**
 at EDK12@brookfieldzoo.org

Brookfield Zoo Chicago • 3300 Golf Rd • Brookfield, IL 60513

*professional
 development
 & training*
 K-12 EDUCATORS



Teaching Safari Session Itinerary

This Summer, our safari begins with a two-day expedition focused on Brookfield Zoo Chicago's *Great Bear Wilderness*, inhabited by brown bears, polar bears, bison, and the bald eagle! As you learn about these amazing animals, you will explore a variety of inquiry-based, student-centered teaching strategies that you can apply in your classroom across subject areas.

Teachers will also participate in a new onsite, two-day "Seven Seas and Sky" adventure combining educator professional development to support student learning with the exploration of *Seven Seas*, our new *North American Prairie Aviary* and other animal habitats throughout the Zoo.

**Note: Itinerary may change subject to weather conditions, animal care needs, and habitat availability.*

ONSITE DAYS 1 & 2

Great Bear Wilderness Expedition

Two full days at Brookfield Zoo Chicago:

Day 1

- Introduction: What Is Conservation Leadership? Developing Conceptual Understanding Through Equity-Based, Student-Centered Teaching
- Observing Bears as Phenomena: A Gateway to Inquiry and Problem-Based Learning

Day 2

- Brown Bear "Food for Thought": Sensemaking with Mathematical Data and Scientific Models
- A Habitat for Bears in The Human Heart: Exploring Diverse Perspectives Through Art and Empathy

ONSITE DAYS 3 & 4

Seven Seas & Sky Expedition

Two more full days at Brookfield Zoo Chicago:

Day 3

- Clicks, Whistles & Soundwaves: Exploring Dolphin Adaptations through Strategies that Promote Sensemaking
- "Dolphin Tales" from Sarasota Dolphin Research Program: Understanding Dolphin Communities & Conservation Challenges through Student-Centered Investigations & Multidisciplinary Connections

Day 4

- Bird-Watching at the Zoo: Understanding Structure & Function Through Collaboration, Observation & Engineering Challenges
- Exploring Bird Behavior and Learning Behavior with Ethograms
- Conclusion and Reflection

		Grades K-5 Cohort June 17 to August 1, 2025	Grades 6-12 Cohort June 25 to August 8, 2024	
GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS Expedition <i>at Brookfield Zoo Chicago</i>	Day 1	Tuesday, June 17, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	Wednesday, June 25, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	6 PD hours
	Day 2	Wednesday June 18, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	Thursday, June 26, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	6 PD hours
Online "Check-in" Meeting <i>via Zoom</i>		Tuesday, June 24, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Tuesday, July 1, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Supports Independent Learning
Draft Lesson Plan Due Date		Monday, June 30, 2025	Wednesday, July 9, 2025	
SEVEN SEAS & SKY Expedition <i>at Brookfield Zoo Chicago</i>	Day 3	Tuesday, July 15, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	Wednesday, July 23, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	6 PD hours
	Day 4	Wednesday, July 16, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	Thursday, July 24, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	6 PD hours
Revised Lesson Plan		Monday, July 28, 2025	Monday, August 4, 2025	
Concept Map Reflection		Monday, July 28, 2025	Monday, August 4, 2025	
Final Meeting/Reflection <i>via Zoom</i>		Friday, August 1, 2025 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Friday, August 8, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Supports Reflection
Independent Learning		Reflection Assignment (3 PD hours) + Annotated Lesson Plan and Revisions (8 PD hours)		11 PD hours

Each cohort totals 35 PD hours or 2 semester hours graduate credit

Attendance at all sessions and completion of all assignments is required to receive graduate credit hours, PD hours, certificate, or Zoo passes. No partial credit is available for this course.