

To: Board of Management

From: Manager, Learning & Engagement

Subject: **LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS REPORT 2019**

Date: 2020-01-20

SUMMARY:

This report focuses on the primary activities and achievements of the Learning & Engagement Branch at the Toronto Zoo for the year 2019. Learning & Engagement oversees a wide variety of different programs throughout the year that support key components of the Strategic Plan and further educational goals. These include school program offerings and teacher resources, as well as a roster of public programs for a variety of audiences/ages and summer camps. Overall program participation and revenues in 2019 were the highest on record with revenue up 9.4% over 2018, generating overall \$1,140,584 and participation up by 2.9% over the preceding year. Bookings for fee-based school programs increased by 2.3% over 2018, marking the strongest year on record. Core revenue generating programs such as Bush Camp, Zoo Camp, Zoo School, and the Valentine's adult program, continue to show strong participation and revenue generation.

Also, included is a summary of curatorial outreach programs which are administered by the Wildlife & Science Division.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Manager, Learning and Engagement recommends that:

- 1. The Toronto Zoo Board of Management receive this report for information.**

COMMENTS:

Key accomplishments in 2019:

School program bookings are a popular option for field trips

17,602 students attended curriculum-based School Programs in 2019, which is an increase of 2.3% against 2018 numbers. It is exciting to note that the number of students attending programs during field trips in 2019 is the highest on record, despite the current labour negotiations between the provincial government and the elementary and secondary school teacher federations, which started in the fall of 2019. The strong participation numbers speak to the strength of these programs and desirability for teachers to provide their students with an experience that delivers focused and meaningful content. Each teacher who participates in a program is requested to submit

feedback through a survey and program evaluations are consistently positive. Evaluation comments from teachers include:

“This trip was outstanding! All of the Zoo leaders were fantastic and were totally accommodating! One of our best years ever. (Bogart P.S)

“Awesome program and amazing program staff!” (James W. Hill)

“Our guides were AMAZING - rave reviews by both the students and parents.” (St. Elizabeth)

“A big takeaway for our trip was the importance of advocacy for the protection of wildlife and our environment. This was a great experience for our students that nicely linked to our curriculum goals.” (St. Theresa)

New in 2019, Learning & Engagement staff developed and piloted three new guided inquiry-based programs for grades 4, 5, and 6 that will replace the full- and half-day curriculum based workshops in fall 2020. Efforts continue to overhaul all program offerings to this new format which will also allow us to accommodate a greater number of students in these paid programs.

In addition, the Learning & Engagement Branch develops and markets a variety of curriculum-based options/resources for teachers to bring their classes to the Zoo for general visits, without a formal program/tour. In 2019, a total of 98,875 students visited the Zoo, representing about 8% of overall attendance and generating an additional \$861,559 in admissions revenue that flows into the general operating budget, along with a portion from School Programs.

Promotion of Field Trips to the Zoo

In order to maximize the exposure of the many educational opportunities available for students, the Learning & Engagement Branch continually makes updates and modifications to the design and content of the School Programs Brochure (Appendix 1) to ensure it is user friendly and provides key information at a glance for teachers. This brochure is printed and distributed every September and January to schools in the Toronto, Durham, York, Peel, and Kawartha/Pine Ridge school boards, as well as upon request. Brochures were also sent to all of the private schools in the Greater Toronto Area, including schools that are members of the Conference of Independent Schools. In addition to sending out the brochure, an advertisement was placed in the Attractions Ontario Field Trip Planner for Educators. This document is sent to all schools across Ontario and is also available to view and download from the Attractions Ontario website.

Through feedback from teachers, we have determined that the primary method they use to get information about field trip options at the Toronto Zoo and teacher resources is through the Zoo's website. This past year the Toronto Zoo website was relaunched with a fresh new look and allows guests, including elementary and secondary teachers, to navigate with ease, filtering the resources and programs that only apply to the grade level(s) they are teaching.

In order to ensure that we are connecting with teachers through a variety of means, we produce a monthly e-newsletter, which is circulated to nearly 5,000 educators and highlights the current initiatives of the Zoo as well as educational opportunities for teachers and their students. A sample newsletter has been attached (Appendix 2).

In keeping with the growing demand and interest in learning experiences for young children, we continued to extend the school admission rate to child care centres that are registered with the Ministry of Education with the hope of attracting additional guests and increasing admissions; a total of 3,717 participants from child care centres took part in a field trip to the Zoo in 2019.

Conservation and Wildlife Educational Outreach

In addition to the programs described below, the Wildlife & Science Division at the Toronto Zoo also coordinates a number of grant funded programs each year that reach additional audiences.

In 2019, our Adopt-A-Pond (AAP) wetland conservation program reached over 52,734 individuals at nearly 60 public events, which included presentations, meetings and conferences, training sessions, and through social media. We distributed over 7,770 education and conservation resources to individuals requesting information.

Our citizen science programs, FrogWatch and Turtle Tally, had another successful year on both the browser and mobile app platforms. FrogWatch Ontario is part of the national initiative, FrogWatch Canada, administered by Environment Canada; AAP is the provincial coordinator of the project. FrogWatch Ontario is a partnership between Toronto Zoo's AAP, Environment Canada's NatureWatch program, and the Ontario Government's Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC). Over 20,000 observations have been collected by over 550 citizen scientists through FrogWatch since 1999. Ontario Turtle Tally was established by Adopt-A-Pond to monitor the health of turtle populations. Information that is collected in this database is submitted to the Natural Heritage Information Centre at the end of each season. Turtle Tally has had over 3,200 participants who contributed over 22,000 turtle sightings since 2003. In 2019, Ontario Turtle Tally received reports of observations of 1,415 individual turtles and its' participants saved over 450 turtles from potential road mortality.

Our First Nations program, Turtle Island Conservation (TIC), has also been developing and delivering conservation education programming in partnership with over 15 First Nations communities in Ontario. TIC partners with First Nation communities to preserve community knowledge and significant natural and cultural landscapes, and to support First Nations communities in their commitment to the protection of biodiversity in Ontario. We have reached over 1,000 individuals this year with education and outreach across all First Nations programs. Approximately 1,500 resources were given out including each of our books and pamphlets which have also been translated into First Nations dialects. For the coming year, TIC and AAP hope to work with First Nations communities to restore wetlands and develop new resources in native languages.

<u>Program</u>	<u># of participants</u>
Adopt-A-Pond:	
Outreach and Education (Presentations, Workshops, Events)	4,947
Social Media Engagements	47,298
Turtle Tally & FrogWatch Participants	489
 TOTAL	 52,734

The Great Lakes Program, focusing on the conservation of this unique and important freshwater resource, continued to develop new initiatives for outreach. In 2019 this program continued in-class delivery in the Chatham-Kent and Kitchener-London regions offering bilingual outreach for grades 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 11, and also expanded into the Cobourg-Kingston area. Altogether this program reaches over 20,000 students annually.

As part of the Great Lakes Program public campaign for freshwater mussels, “I am Important! I am Protected!”, the Clam Counter app for freshwater mussel reporting and identification received 50 reports in 2019 showing an annual trend of increasing reports over three seasons since its launch in 2017.

Additional Great Lakes-focused programs, Aqua Links and Blue Schools partnered with a combined total of 35 schools. As part of the Aqua-Links Program, students and educators from 25 schools reared and released approximately 2,900 Atlantic salmon fry into tributaries of Lake Ontario. The salmon are cared for by the students in classroom hatcheries from the egg stage to the fry stage when the students take a field trip to release the salmon in partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Ten schools participated in the new Blue Schools program to conduct in-school water audits and implement water-saving actions in their schools. Some of the actions implemented in 2019 included rain garden installations at two schools, installation of water bottle refill stations, and dual flush valves in washrooms.

Zoo School - delivery of Grade 11 biology credit courses

In 2010, the Toronto Zoo became established as a private school with the Ontario Ministry of Education and gained the authority to grant school credits towards a student's secondary school diploma. Since its inception, Zoo School has been a very popular program and for the ninth consecutive year the program was at enrollment capacity with a significant waitlist of students (n=15) wanting to be a part of the program. In order to accommodate students who are keen to register and support them in timetable scheduling, Zoo School registration opens 18 months prior to the start of the course offering. In 2019, we had a total of 35 students successfully receive their grade 11 university biology credit, resulting in \$61,137 in revenue. Feedback from students and parents remains highly positive and includes comments such as:

“I just wanted to say thank you for making this summer school experience fantastic for my daughter. Every day was an adventure and she really loved the hands on experiences and getting up and walking around the zoo instead of just sitting all day. You have renewed her passion for science and as a parent, I can’t thank you enough for that. If

there is any chance you will be running a grade 12 science course, please let us know. I know who will be the first to sign up”

July 2019 parent

“Thank you so much! [My daughter] stated she was never so excited to go to school and she had a wonderful experience. She had a lot of compliments for the teachers as well, especially to the point of keeping it exciting. As a family, we learned a lot from [my daughter] and it was fun being at the zoo. Thanks again!”

July 2019 Parent

“I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for teaching [my son] this summer. He learned so much and thoroughly enjoyed the course! Thank you for all the time, effort and care that you put into making zoo school such a valuable learning experience for the students.”

August 2019 parent

Operation Conservation Program delivered to youth from underserved communities

Funded by the Tippet Foundation and Geoffrey H. Wood Foundation this program offers youth a two-day, immersive experience that serves to promote interest in the natural world and develop stewards for the environment, who are equipped to take an active role in wildlife conservation under the guidance of a supportive coordinator. Two hundred and forty five students participated in this two-day immersion program in 2019; funding to support this program has been received from these foundations since 2002.

In 2019, the Zoo was successful in garnering continued support from the Tippet Foundation in the amount of \$15,640 to continue to support students from the Malvern community for the 2019/20 school year.

Learning opportunities expanded for underserved communities through Model Schools Passport Program

One of the key challenges of the Toronto District School Board’s Model Schools program is to strengthen and increase parent involvement, a critical factor in student success. Participation in this passport program allowed students and their families the chance to experience the Zoo and share an enriching learning opportunity together which they may not otherwise have been able to do as a family, nor with their school, as a result of financial limitations. In 2019, 375 children and 548 adults participated in the program resulting in revenue of \$8,927.

Zoo Camp continues to provide a positive summer experience for youth

In 2019, Zoo Camp attracted 1,733 participants and generated \$547,234 in revenue. This represents a 6.3% increase in participation and 10.2% increase in revenue from the previous year. This year we implemented CampBrain as the online registration system, replacing the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) solution, resulting in a significantly improved customer experience. This summer we continued to deliver staff training with a focus on interpretive techniques, providing the seasonal staff with a skill set to provide our campers with a fun and memorable learning experience at the Zoo.

We continue to provide Before & After Care services for parents who need the benefits of extended camp hours. In 2019, this was successful in generating \$27,031 in revenue.

Bush Camp experience remains popular

In 2019, the Bush Camp overnight experience was one of the strongest years on record for participation and revenue. A total of 3,453 individuals attended the Bush Camp program, either as a family unit or as part of a youth group. A total of \$326,287 was generated in revenue, which is a 6.1% increase compared to the preceding year. This past summer, Bush Camp included a behind-the-scenes visit with the white rhino and giant eland (which also included an enrichment experience), both of which were very well received. T-shirts, crests, buffs, and ball caps were also available for purchase for the Bush Camp participants contributing \$10,506 in revenue to the overall total above.

Overnight programs in the fall and winter for youth groups continue to be a positive draw

In 2019, the Learning & Engagement Branch continued to offer overnight programs during the fall and winter months to youth groups such as Scouts, Guides, Brownies, etc. These programs, which were first introduced in 2015, continue to be successful and attract a number of groups throughout the non-peak season. In 2019, a total of 404 people participated in the program resulting in \$26,944 in revenue.

A variety of special themed presentations offered to engage inquiring minds

Throughout the year the Learning & Engagement Branch offers a number of themed programs for a variety of audiences with a strong focus on family-group learning opportunities. In 2019, this included programs on the topics of giraffes and hippos with opportunities to meet the Wildlife Care staff that work closely with these animals. Additionally, our after-hours program, Bump in the Night, themed for Halloween and focusing on nocturnal animals, continued to be a strong draw hosting 170 participants over two nights and generating \$2,890 in revenue.

Working with staff from many other branches, the Learning & Engagement Branch offers guests the opportunity to participate in special presentations delivered by experts working with wildlife in the field or experts found right here at the Toronto Zoo. In 2019, the Learning & Engagement Branch offered presentations related to polar bears, bats, owls, and a special series of keeper-led presentations called "Zoo Diaries Live: The Next Chapter". In total, 222 guests participated in these themed presentations. Overall, the family programs including the themed presentations resulted in \$9,145 in revenue.

The Learning & Engagement Branch also hosts a special Valentine's dinner and program for adults, and continues to build on the program that was initiated in 2011. The program in 2019, focused on courtship practices in the wild, and had strong participation and revenue (251 participants and \$23,023 respectively, plus an additional \$1,100 generated through a silent auction). The program has grown in popularity and is expected to continue to be a crowd favourite in future years.

Overall, Learning & Engagement had an outstanding year in 2019, having the highest overall program participation and revenue. As we look forward into 2020, we are planning to continue building on this success by finalizing our re-design of our school programs to

incorporate current teaching practices and expectations, re-designing our fall and winter overnight program, and continuing to expand the number and variety of offerings for parents with young children.

CONTACT:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 – School Programs Brochure 2019-2020
Appendix 2 – Sample E-Newsletter – Educators’ Edition (October 2019)
Appendix 3 – School and Public Education Programs 2014-2019



Field Trip Planner

2019 - 2020

EDUCATOR RESOURCE GUIDE TO THE TORONTO ZOO

Curriculum-based field trips for preschool, elementary, & secondary students.



EXPLORING NATURE'S CLASSROOM AT THE TORONTO ZOO

BENEFITS OF A TRIP TO THE ZOO

- Making real-world connections through observation, inquiry, & critical thinking.
- Coming face-to-face with over 5,000 animals.
- Ignites a sense of wonder and curiosity.
- Connecting with nature, getting active, and exploring 10 km of walking trails.
- Inspires students to take action and protect wildlife.



TORONTO ZOO FIELD TRIPS - AT A GLANCE

SELF-GUIDED VISIT

Enjoy the flexibility of exploring the Zoo on your own, while discovering the amazing wildlife that call the Zoo home.

GUIDED TOUR

Toronto Zoo Volunteers will guide your students through the Zoo on an exciting, two hour tour, connecting wildlife and the Zoo to your chosen curriculum linked topic. Spend the rest of your visit exploring on your own.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Delivered by Toronto Zoo educators, school programs are a unique and exciting way to bring the curriculum to life. Programs are available for both elementary and secondary students and range from 45 minute programs to full day workshops.

SCHOOL GROUP ADMISSION RATES STUDENTS & SUPERVISORS*

Licensed Child Care Centres**	\$9
Elementary (K 8)	\$9
Secondary (9 12)	\$10
Post secondary	\$11

1 teacher per class receives **FREE** admission.

Kindergarten: 1 teacher + 1 ECE per class receive **FREE** admission.

Zoo Memberships are honoured for student & supervisor admission. Proof of membership required.

SUPERVISOR RATIO

Grades PreK - 3	1 supervisor per 5 students.
Grades 4 - 8	1 supervisor per 10 students.
Grades 9 - 12	1 supervisor per 20 students.

* **All rates subject to change without notice.**

** Licensed Child Care Centres must be registered with the Ministry of Education and pay for a minimum of 10 children. Valid on P.A. Days, but excludes other school holidays.

HST included in all rates - HST#119216398

BOOK YOUR FIELD TRIP TODAY

Please book at least two weeks in advance.

The Zoo is **open year-round!** Self-guided visits can be booked on any day. School programs (September to June) and guided tours (September to Victoria Day weekend) fill up quickly, so don't miss out - book early!

Information required at time of booking:

- Date of visit
- Contact teacher's name, email, & cell number
- School name, address, & phone number
- Number of classes, students by grade level, & supervisors
- Estimated time of arrival
- School program or guided tour choice (if applicable)

HOW TO BOOK

Self-guided Visit

416-392-5932 or book online at torontozoo.com

Guided Tour

416-392-5942 or email tzvolunteers@torontozoo.ca

School Programs

416-392-5944 or email schools@torontozoo.ca

torontozoo.com/educationandcamps/schoolprograms



DISCOVER THE ZOO

Students will be amazed by the diversity of wildlife as they explore:

- African Rainforest
- African Savanna
- Americas
- Australasia
- Canadian Domain
- Eurasia Wilds
- Indo-Malaya
- Kids Zoo
- Tundra Trek

INTERACTIVE INTERPRETIVE STATIONS

Visit one of the interpretive stations located throughout the Zoo to learn more about wildlife from Zoo Volunteers through interactive activities and biofacts (e.g. furs, skulls, feathers, & much more).

CURRICULUM-LINKED RESOURCES

FREE to download

Self-guided tours, lesson ideas, activity guides, assignments, and more are available for elementary and secondary students from torontozoo.com.

MEET-THE-KEEPER TALKS

Offered daily, Meet-the-Keeper Talks are a great opportunity for students to learn more about wildlife directly from our Wildlife Care staff.

MEET-THE-KEEPER SCHEDULE

ANIMAL	SEPT 3 - OCT 14	OCT 15 - MAY 4
Komodo dragon	11:30 am	11:30 am
Cheetah**	11:30 am	11:30 am
Polar bear	12:00 pm	12:00 pm
African penguin	12:30 pm	-
Lake Malawi (feeding only)	12:30 pm	12:30 pm
American Otter (feeding only)	12:30 pm	12:30 pm
Orangutan	1:00 pm	1:00 pm
Lion	1:00 pm	1:00 pm
Gorilla	1:30 pm Weekends only	1:30 pm
Grizzly bear	2:00 pm	-
Indian rhinoceros*	2:00 pm	-
Giraffe*	2:00 pm	2:00 pm
Snake*	2:30 pm Weekends only	2:30 pm Weekends only
Amur Tiger	2:30 pm	2:30 pm
White rhinoceros*	2:30 pm Weekends only	-

*Weather permitting **Subject to Change



WASHED ASHORE

FREE with Zoo admission
May - November, 2019

The Washed Ashore exhibit features giant sea life sculptures made entirely of marine debris collected from beaches to graphically illustrate the tragedy of plastic pollution in our oceans and waterways. All of the artwork is combined with scientifically based educational signage to teach children and adults about ocean stewardship, responsible consumer habits, and how 'every action counts' to help save the sea. Check out washedashore.org for more information and to see previous exhibits!



THE WILD ROUGE ZIPLINE AND CANOPY TOUR

Weekends only
Open select Fridays: September 6, 13 & 20

The ecologically themed zipline transports guests down a 300 m parallel cable line at speeds exceeding 40km/hr. After landing at the adventure tower, guests are able to explore the forest canopy through a network of rope bridges, and an aerial challenge course. The adventure concludes with a thrilling zipdrop to the ground.

TRY THESE OTHER ADVENTURES*



For more information visit:

torontozoo.com/explorethezoo/retailandrideslocations.asp

*Additional fees apply. Seasonal. Weather permitting.



ACCESSIBILITY

The Zoo has many features to make it accessible for all students, including complimentary admission for support persons providing one-on-one support for health and/or safety reasons. School programs and guided tours can also be modified to meet the varying abilities of students. For more information, visit torontozoo.com/explorethezoo/accessibility.



LUNCH

Picnic tables are available throughout the Zoo and students can bring litterless lunches or purchase food at a restaurant. To arrange a pizza or boxed lunch, please contact Compass Foods at **416-392-6003** prior to visit.

*50% off picnic site rentals during the school year for school groups. Contact grouperevents@torontozoo.ca for more information.



DISCOVERY ZONE

FREE with Zoo admission (Seasonal)

Young students will learn about wildlife through play while exploring **Kids Zoo**, while students of all ages will enjoy watching the interactive **Animal Show**, highlighting the natural abilities of wildlife.

ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING

PROGRAM/RESOURCE	PRIMARY	JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE
<p>FULL-DAY WORKSHOPS <i>\$7 per student plus admission.</i> Bringing the curriculum to life through exciting, educator-led tours, hands on biofacts, and fun activities. <i>Runs daily: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm</i></p>	<p><i>Grade 1 • Animal Movement</i> <i>Grade 1 • Animal Senses</i> <i>Grade 2 • Animal Classification</i> <i>Grade 2 • Life Cycles</i> <i>Grade 2 • Seasonal Change in Animals</i> <i>Grade 3 • Plant & Animal Relationships</i></p>	<p><i>Grade 4 • Habitats & Human Influence on Habitats</i> <i>Grade 5 • Animal Digestive System</i> <i>Grade 6 • Biodiversity & Climate Change</i> <i>Grade 6 • Vertebrate Classification</i> <i>Grade 7 • Tropical Rainforest Ecosystems</i></p>
<p>HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS <i>\$4 per student plus admission.</i> All the benefits of a full-day workshop in a fraction of the time. <i>Two sessions daily: 10:00 - 11:30 am & 12:00 - 1:30 pm</i></p>	<p>GRADE 2 CLASSIFICATION Students will learn about animal classification through class discussions, tactile booklets, and activities, while exploring the Malayan Woods and Indo-Malaya Pavilions.</p>	<p>GRADE 6 BIODIVERSITY Students will be amazed by the diversity of life found within the African Rainforest Pavilion. Explore the true meaning of biodiversity through discussions and activities.</p>
<p>VOLUNTEER-LED GUIDED TOURS <i>FREE with admission. Limited availability.</i> Zoo Volunteers lead your students in small groups on an informative, two-hour tour focused on your chosen topic. <i>10:00am - 12:00 pm (Labour Day to Victoria Day)</i></p>	<p><i>PreK - Grade 1 • Introduction to Animals</i> <i>Grade 1 • Characteristics & Needs of Living Things</i> <i>Grade 2 • Growth & Change in Animals</i> <i>Grade 3 • Plant & Animal Interactions</i></p>	<p><i>Grade 4 • African Savanna Habitats & Communities</i> <i>Grade 4 • Rainforest Habitats & Communities</i> <i>Grade 5 • Animal Digestive Systems</i> <i>Grade 6 • Biodiversity</i> <i>Grade 7 • Interactions in the Environment</i> <i>Grade 4-8 • Endangered Species</i></p>
<p>SELF-GUIDED TOURS <i>FREE to download from website.</i> Download a curriculum-linked, self-guided tour script to support and enhance your students' learning.</p>	<p><i>Grade 1 Characteristics & Needs of Living Things</i> <i>Grade 2 Growth & Change in Animals</i> <i>Grade 3 Plant & Animal Interactions</i> <i>Grade 1-3 Eurasia Wilds</i></p>	<p><i>Grade 4 • Animal Habitats & Communities</i> <i>Grade 5 • Animal Digestive Systems</i> <i>Grade 6 • Biodiversity & Climate Change</i> <i>Grade 4 - 6 • Eurasia Wilds</i> <i>Grade 7 • Interactions within Ecosystems</i></p>
<p>EDUCATOR RESOURCE BOOKLETS <i>FREE to download from website.</i></p>	<p><i>K - Grade 8 • What's New at the Zoo!</i> <i>K - Grade 8 • Polar Bears & the Arctic</i> <i>Grade 1 • Characteristics & Needs of Living Things</i> <i>Grade 2 • Growth & Changes in Animals</i> <i>Grade 3 • Growth & Changes in Plants</i></p>	<p><i>Grade 4 • Habitats & Communities</i> <i>Grade 5 • Human Organ Systems</i> <i>Grade 6 • Biodiversity</i> <i>Grade 7 • Interactions in the Environment</i> <i>Grade 8 • Great Lakes & Water Systems</i></p>
<p>NEW POLAR BEAR PROGRAMS <i>\$3 per student plus admission.</i> Exciting, interactive, and curriculum linked! <i>Three sessions daily:</i> • 10:00 am - 11:00 am • 11:15 am - 12:15 pm • 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm</p>	<p>PRIMARY POLAR BEAR PROGRAMS <i>(K - Grade 3)</i> Chill with our polar bears in the "coolest" program at the Zoo! Students will learn about the individual Zoo bears, cool creature features and adaptations, their life cycle, and behaviours. Your students will "bear ly" be able to contain their excitement!</p>	<p>JR/INT POLAR BEAR PROGRAMS <i>(GRADE 4-8)</i> Discover how the species <i>Ursus maritimus</i> is perfectly adapted to an environment that few animals can "bear". Together with Zoo staff, determine the important role that polar bears play in their Arctic ecosystem, what threatens their survival, and how we can make a difference.</p>

AT THE TORONTO ZOO



SECONDARY PROGRAMS, RESOURCES, & OPPORTUNITIES

PRESENTATION - EXPLORING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION (1 HOUR)

\$3 per student plus admission.

Discover what it takes to run a conservation-based zoological facility while learning about several of the Toronto Zoo's conservation projects that are working to save endangered species.

HALF-DAY WORKSHOP - CLIMATE CHANGE

\$4 per student plus admission.

Students will learn about natural and human causes contributing to climate change and the impact it is having on ecosystems in the tundra and Australasia.

GUIDED TOURS

- Anthropology
- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Wildlife Health Centre Gallery
- Endangered Species
- Evolution
- Sustainable Ecosystems

Have a specific theme in mind? All you need to do is ask! All tours can be adapted for students with special needs or English as a second language.

SECONDARY LEVEL ASSIGNMENTS

FREE to download from website.

Challenge your students to observe, read, think, record data, and make their own discoveries at the Zoo.

- Anthropology
- Biodiversity
- Evolution
- Climate Change
- Environmental Science
- Sustainable Ecosystem
- Urbanization
- Biomes

WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTRE

A glimpse into the work we do behind-the-scenes!

Educate your students about the vital behind-the-scenes work of the Zoo's wildlife science specialists, including veterinary and reproductive sciences, nutritional physiology, and conservation and wildlife research. The viewing gallery features the following rooms: Diagnostic Imaging, Treatment, Surgery, Clinical Lab, and Endocrinology Lab. You never know what you might end up seeing! Open 10:00 am – 4:00 pm daily.



ZOO AMBASSADOR STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

The Toronto Zoo is looking for secondary students who enjoy interacting with people to assist at special events and our summer Zoo Camp.

For more information, email tzvolunteers@torontozoo.ca.

GREEN TECHNOLOGY TOUR (1 HOUR)

\$4 per student plus admission.

Learn about green initiatives and sustainable development practices while visiting a few of the green projects implemented at the Zoo.

ZOO SCHOOL

Students can earn their grade 11 biology credit (SBI3U) in the summer at the Toronto Zoo!

This unique experience incorporates behind-the-scenes tours, close animal encounters, career discussions with Zoo staff, interactive classroom discussions, and memorable projects.

2020 • Registration now open

For registration details, please visit:

torontozoo.com/educationandcamps/zooschool



EXTEND LEARNING AT THE ZOO

ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL

By adopting an animal, your class can contribute towards its care and on going conservation efforts. Adoption packages include certificate, animal fact sheet, and informative newsletter. Packages begin at \$25.

To find out how your students can become Zoo "parents," call 416-392-9114 or email development@torontozoo.ca.



ADOPT-A-POND WETLAND CONSERVATION GRADES 1 - 12

Our mission is to conserve wetlands and wetland wildlife through research, education, and stewardship. Utilizing our resources, your classroom can get involved with creating, restoring, and protecting wetland biodiversity.

Curriculum-linked resources are available online for the following topics:

- Eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes
- Turtles
- Wetlands

Order posters, species identification guides, and Ontario Turtle Tally, FrogWatch Ontario, & Turtle Island Conservation brochures by emailing aap@torontozoo.ca.



GREAT LAKES PROGRAM - GRADES 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11

Curriculum-linked & interactive in-class presentations delivered across Ontario!

Grade 1 & 2 • Discover our local fish species.

Grade 4 • Explore the role of fish in the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Grade 6 • Investigate the impact of humans on biodiversity in the Great Lakes.

Grade 7 • Explore the importance of natural water resources and maintaining healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Grade 11 • Examine the diversity of living things and water quality in urban settings.

A great way to engage your students in local conservation efforts!

Grade 8 Great Lakes Teaching and Learning Resource

Inquiry-based learning resource comes complete with student workbook, online component, project ideas, and teacher guide.

Water Resources

Lesson Plans: Bilingual plans available for grades 1, 2, 7, 8, & 11

Resources available in: English, French, Mandarin, Panjabi (Punjabi), & Urdu.

Please contact greatlakes@torontozoo.ca or call 416-392-6022 for more information.



BLUE SCHOOLS PROGRAM – GRADES 1 – 12

Cross-curricular and action-oriented school certification program.

After completing an in-school water audit, students take the lead and decide how to reduce or improve water consumption in the school. With support from Toronto Zoo staff, students develop and implement an action plan to support water conservation; some action examples include shoreline clean-ups, awareness campaigns, installing water-saving hardware, and rain gardens.

Please contact greatlakes@torontozoo.ca or visit: <http://www.torontozoo.com/conservation/blueschools/> for more information



AQUA-LINKS OUTREACH PROGRAM – GRADE 7

BILINGUAL AND CURRICULUM-LINKED!

Students gain hands-on experience raising native Atlantic salmon in their classrooms and are connected to students and biologists in East Africa to discuss local water issues. All necessary equipment is provided. *Limited spaces available.*

Please contact aqualinks@torontozoo.ca or call 416-392-6022 for more information.

FREE

FREE

FREE

AND BEYOND!



EXTINCT IS FOREVER

FIGHTING EXTINCTION - WHY WE ARE HERE

The Toronto Zoo is here because the work we do behind-the-scenes is vital to the survival of wildlife. Visit torontozoo.com to watch the *Fighting Extinction - Why We Are Here* video and learn more about the important conservation work the Toronto Zoo is involved in. Use this video in your classroom to start a discussion about wildlife conservation and how students can get involved to help protect the environment.

How loud is a lion's roar? How does a snake slither? Which species are the biggest, fastest, and strongest? How does the Toronto Zoo design exhibits to meet the needs of different species? How is the Toronto Zoo helping to protect wildlife and their habitat? Find out at the Toronto Zoo!

FREE CURRICULUM-LINKED RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- Self-guided Tour Scripts (elementary) and inquiry based assignments (elementary & secondary)
- Educator Resource & Activity Packages (grade/theme specific)
- Adopt-a-Pond Wetland Conservation Resources, Posters, & Species Identification Guides
- Great Lakes - Inquiry-based Resource & Lesson Plans
- Turtle Island Conservation Resource Package (First Nations)
- All about the Toronto Zoo - Careers, Conservation, Diets, Enrichment, & more!
- Animal Fact Sheets & Zoo Baby Updates
- Videos

Or create your own open-ended, inquiry-based resources to suit the needs of your students!

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO! EDUCATOR E-NEWSLETTER

Subscribe to schools@torontozoo.ca today and be the first to learn about field trip and outreach opportunities, new curriculum-linked programs and resources available, as well as special events and promotions happening at the Toronto Zoo.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- Science - Think beyond just Life Systems & Biology
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Social Studies/Geography
- Anthropology
- Careers
- Business
- The Arts





Book your *Field Trip* today

2019 - 2020 ZOO HOURS*

SEPTEMBER 3 - MAY 1 9:30 am to 4:30 pm weekdays
MAY 2 - SEPTEMBER 7 9:00 am to 7:00 pm weekdays

** Subject to change without notice.*

CONTACTS

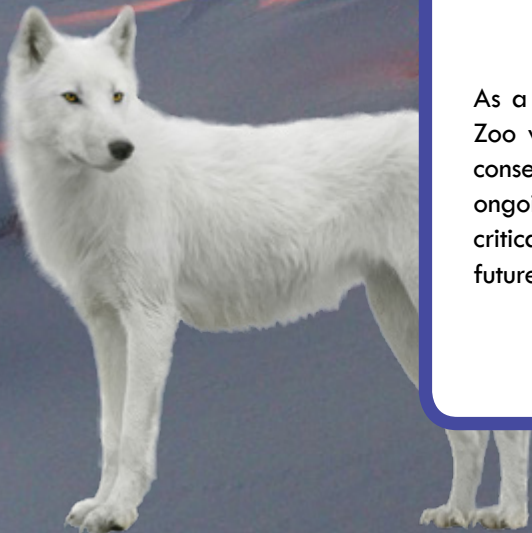
Self-guided Visits 416-392-5932 or book online
Guided Tours tzvolunteers@torontozoo.ca
School Programs schools@torontozoo.ca
Adopt-an-Animal development@torontozoo.ca
Adopt-a-Pond aap@torontozoo.ca
Aqua-Links Outreach aqualinks@torontozoo.ca
Great Lake Outreach greatlakes@torontozoo.ca
Serengeti Bush Camp bushcamp@torontozoo.ca

VISIT TORONTOZOO.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

As a not-for-profit organization, the revenues from all Zoo visits, including school field trips, directly support conservation efforts to help save vulnerable wildlife. The ongoing support of educators helps to ensure that these critical conservation efforts can continue and connects future generations to nature and the environment.

Together we can make a difference!



Curiosity • Discovery • Inquiry



WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO! EDUCATORS' EDITION

Current 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Hours: daily

Weekends: 9:30 am – 6:00 pm

School Group Admission

Rates:

Child Care Centre*:	\$9
Elementary:	\$9
Secondary:	\$10
Post-Secondary:	\$11

**Child Care Centres must be licensed with the Ontario Ministry of Education to receive the \$9 admission rate. A minimum of 10 children required. Excludes school holidays.*

School Group Supervision

Ratios:

PreK – 3:	1 : 5
4 – 8:	1 : 10
9 – 12:	1 : 20

[Book Your School Visit!](#)

Contact Information

School Programs:	416-392-5944
Guided Tours:	416 -392-5942

Plan Your Fall Toronto Zoo Field Trip Today!

Fall in love with creatures big and small this autumn at the Zoo. What better place to see the leaves changing colour than in our maple forest, as you visit the over 5,000 animals that call the Zoo home.

Benefits of a Toronto Zoo Field Trip:

- Discovering over 5,000 animals from around the world.
- Making real-world connections through observation, inquiry, and critical thinking.
- Igniting a sense of wonder and curiosity about the natural world.
- Getting active and exploring 10 km of walking trails.
- Inspiring students to take action and protect wildlife.

Admissions
only: [416 -392-5932](tel:416-392-5932)

**“It was outstanding! All of
the Zoo leaders were
fantastic!**

- Bogart Public School

[Click here](#) to learn more about Toronto Zoo field trips, including discounted admission rates for school groups, tips to make your field trip a success, and FREE curriculum-linked resources.

Book Your Field Trip Today

Self-guided Visits: *Book on any date you would like.*

- **416-392-5932** or **[BOOK ONLINE](#)**

Guided Tours:

- **416-392-5942** or email tzvolunteers@torontozoo.ca

School Programs:

- **416-392-5944** or email schools@torontozoo.ca



NEW!

\$3.00 Zoomobile per student until October 14, 2019!



WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

We are seeking input from our community on how best to chart a roadmap to meet the needs of our animals, staff, volunteers, guests and community. We value your opinions and encourage you to complete this survey by October 18, 2019 so we can include your perspectives in the new Toronto Zoo Strategic Plan to guide its future direction.

To participate in the Toronto Zoo's Community Survey,

[click here](#)

Last Chance to Experience Our Washed Ashore Art Exhibit Leaving November 2019

Free with Zoo admission

The Washed Ashore exhibit features giant sea life sculptures made entirely of marine debris collected from beaches to graphically illustrate the tragedy of plastic pollution in our oceans and waterways. All of the artwork is combined with scientifically based educational signage to teach children and adults about ocean stewardship, responsible consumer habits, and how "every action counts" to help save the sea. Check out washedashore.org for more information.




WASHED ASHORE.ORG
ART TO SAVE THE SEA

Supported By

10000
CHANGES



Shop SMART this Halloween.



Choose treats that **protect rainforests!**

Palm oil is an ingredient found in over half of the products we use daily, such as chocolate, margarine, detergent, and shampoo. Use this list to help YOU make sustainable choices when buying tasty treats for the trick-or-treaters this Halloween season. These companies are committed to using certified sustainable palm oil and helping to save wildlife including orangutans, tigers, and hornbills.

Here are some examples of sustainable palm oil treats:

Mars

- Twix
- 3 Musketeers
- M&M's
- Snickers
- Dove
- Skittles

Hershey's

- Reese's
- Turtles
- Whoppers
- Twizzlers
- Jolly Rancher

Ferrero

- Kinder
- Tic Tac
- Ferrero Rocher

Frito Lay

- Lay's
- Ruffles
- SunChips
- Tostitos
- Cheetos

Kraft Heinz

- Kraft caramels

Quaker

- Chewy granola bars
- Crispy minis

Lindt & Sprugli

- Lindt
- Lindor



DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know You Can Visit the Zoo's Greenhouse? At No Additional Cost?

Did you know that the Toronto Zoo houses a variety of not only animals species, but plant species from around the world? Toronto Zoo is in fact, home to one of the largest tropical plant collections in Canada! You can see many of these plants year-round as you enter the pavilions, and in our greenhouse. The Toronto Zoo has a whole horticulture team full of plant

experts to ensure they are well taken care of, especially since Canada has a much different climate than many of the areas the plants come from.

Plants and seeds are sourced internationally by the Curatorial Gardener, from private collectors and nurseries around the world. Some of the plant species are actually grown for years in the Zoo's greenhouse before they are ready to be added to displays and habitats onsite!

Encourage your students to take a behind-the-scenes peak at our greenhouse on your next excursion to the Zoo. Open daily from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS:

Primary

Life Cycles– What does a typical life cycle of a plant look like? Examine the different plants in the greenhouse for seeds, flowers, and fruit!

Junior

Interdependence– What creatures typically pollinate flowers? Encourage students to list as many as they can think of. See if you can witness any pollination in action in the greenhouse.

Intermediate

Critical Thinking– Identify the biotic and abiotic elements within a rainforest ecosystem, and the role plants play in their ecosystem.

Secondary

Plant Physiology– Have a photography competition. Students can take a picture of a stem, leaf, or flower and research the plant's adaptations. Students could alternatively create and label a biological diagram of their chosen plant structure.

Toronto Zoo is accredited by CAZA (Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums) and AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums). Look for CAZA's and AZA's logos whenever you visit a North American zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.

Toronto Zoo
361A Old Finch Ave
Toronto, ON M1B 5K7
Canada
torontozoo.com

For more information, please visit caza.ca or aza.org.

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You are receiving this email because you have opted-in to our Educator e-Newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, you may [unsubscribe](#) at any time.

Working together we can create a healthy environment for animals, plants, and people.

****Events, admission rates, and hours are subject to change without notice.***

For general Zoo information, please visit torontozoo.com.

We want to hear from you! Your feedback is important in helping us to continue delivering quality educational programs/experiences.

Contact us at schools@torontozoo.ca.

Appendix 3 - School and Public Education Programs 2014-2019

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS 2014 - 2019

	2014		2015*		2016		2017**		2018		2019		2018/2019	
	# Partic.	Revenue	# Partic.	Revenue	# Partic.	Revenue	# Partic.	Revenue	# Partic.	Revenue	# Partic.	Revenue	% Over/(Under) Partic.	Revenue
CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS														
Zoo Camps	1,798	543,390	1,811	548,996	1,812	552,183	1,315	400,894	1,631	496,806	1,733	547,234	6.3	10.2
Parent & Tot	24	456	99	1,838	45	858	59	1,120	106	644	263	2,104	148.1	226.7
Children's Programs (<i>themed programs for ages 4-16</i>)	201	10,610	108	5,691	123	6,195	115	6,060	22	1,190	86	4,762	290.9	300.2
Guide/Scout & Youth Group Overnight Program	407	5,696	369	9,581	484	16,499	367	16,037	319	19,757	404	26,944	26.6	36.4
Subtotal	2,430	560,152	2,387	566,106	2,464	575,735	1,856	424,111	2,078	518,397	2,486	581,044	19.6	12.1
FAMILY / ADULT PROGRAMS														
Bush Camp	3,134	245,321	2,866	236,301	3,034	256,730	2,226	198,930	3,527	307,394	3,453	326,287	(2.1)	6.1
Themed Family Programs (<i>Halloween & Presentations</i>)	606	16,454	391	7,267	541	11,390	588	8,129	532	11,093	425	9,145	(20.1)	(17.6)
Adult Programs (<i>Valentine's, Bats & Beverages</i>)	208	14,680	244	17,830	275	18,466	235	18,113	233	18,215	308	25,343	32.2	39.1
Subtotal	3,948	276,455	3,501	261,398	3,850	286,586	3,049	225,172	4,292	336,702	4,186	360,775	(2.5)	7.1
SCHOOL PROGRAMS														
Elementary Level Programs	13,057	80,168	10,652	62,614	13,486	71,888	9,331	53,035	13,479	74,756	14,095	81,404	4.6	8.9
Secondary & Post-Secondary Level Programs / Teacher PD	968	5,875	1,250	6,349	2,049	8,271	1,901	8,057	3,446	15,465	3,226	15,584	(6.4)	0.8
Zoo School (Gr. 11 course)	36	52,681	36	52,827	36	56,700	37	59,693	36	56,700	36	61,137	0.0	7.8
Operation Conservation (grant funded)	210	36,640	250	40,640	244	40,640	249	40,640	249	40,640	245	40,640	(1.6)	0.0
Subtotal	14,271	175,364	12,188	162,430	15,815	177,499	11,518	161,425	17,210	187,561	17,602	198,765	2.3	6.0
*NOTE: revenues for school programs are based on separate program fees and do NOT include general admissions revenue for the 98,875 students that visited in 2019 resulting in an estimated additional \$861,559.														
TOTAL PROGRAMS	20,649	1,011,971	18,076	989,934	22,129	1,039,820	16,423	810,708	23,580	1,042,660	24,274	1,140,584	2.9	9.4

* denotes a 10-week summer

** 2017 experienced a five-week labour disruption (May to June)

Comments:

Zoo Camp revenue was up in 2019 due to an increase in the camp fees. Registration was up in 2019 as a result of in-season decisions to maximize the participation in the age-levels demonstrating demand.

Parent & Tot participation was higher in 2019 due to increased offerings. Demand also increased as a result of a price adjustment and program related improvements based on a program assessment.

In response to the Organizational Review, starting in 2018 weekend children's programs were phased out in favour for offering more family group programming, with the exception of PA Day programs.

In response to the Organizational Review, starting in 2018 badge programs for Guides, Scouts, etc. were phased out in favour for offering more youth group overnight programming, which have lower participation capacity yet higher revenues.

Bush Camp participation continues to be strong in part due to a registration process change that occurred in 2018, requiring final participation numbers and payment two weeks in advance of the program date.

Adult program participation and revenue are up in 2019 as a result of increased number of Valentine's program offerings and the successful addition of a new program called Bats & Beverages.

School Programs participation and revenue is the highest on record, in part due to our variety of offerings which allow us to service a greater number of students.