

Education Program Topics

Programs for all ages:

Amazing Adaptations

Why do tigers have such big teeth? How far can an owl its head? In this program, discover how animals survive in their environments using specific body parts or behaviors known as adaptations. Great for all ages. Our most popular program!

Animal Coverings

Why are birds covered with feathers? Why do turtles have shells? Learn about the different types of coverings, the animals that have them, and how it helps them to survive. Great for all ages!

Animal Enrichment

Have you ever wondered if animals get bored like humans do? Explore different tools that the zoo uses to enrich the lives of the animals that call it home. You can also learn how to enrich the lives of animals that live in and around your home. Great for all ages.

At Home in My Biome

Grasslands, deserts, forests...these are just some of the places our animals call home. Discover more about biomes and how their qualities determine what animals live there. Great for all ages.

Life Cycles

What changes happen when animals grow? Many animals go through a series of changes from birth to death. Students will compare a variety of animal life cycles and learn what changes occur to them between egg and adult. Great for all ages.

Animal Myths Busted!

Can an owl turn its head all the way around? Do porcupines shoot their quills? Can turtles leave their shells? Find out by joining us as we present and analyze some myths and misconceptions about animals found at the zoo! Great for all ages including mixed age groups.

Predator vs. Prey

What is a predator? What is a prey? Learn how the ability to get food and avoid becoming food is linked to survival. Learn about both types of animals that live here at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Great for all ages.

Rainforests

Tropical rainforests are one of the most diverse environments on earth, with over half of our known plant and animal species residing there. You will explore the layers of rainforest and the animals that inhabit them. Learn how humans depend on this unique habitat. Great for all ages.

Grossology

From penguin poop to vulture vomit, the Zoo can be a pretty gross place! We will explore the icky, yucky, gross side of working with animals, and find out why a little gross can be a good thing! Most appropriate for ages 6-12.

Going Native

While we might not have large and impressive wildlife like elephants and lions roaming the countryside, the wildlife that can be found in the state of New York is still diverse and interesting to learn about. The animals we share our neighborhoods with can give us brief glimpses into the lives that go on around us every day. Most appropriate for ages 5-9.

Species Survival

Why do animals become endangered or extinct? How are AZA accredited institutions, like the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, helping to save animals from extinction? Discover what part humans play and how you can help. Most appropriate for ages 8 and up.

The Scoop on Poop

All animals poop! Here at the zoo we have many species which all have their own way of doing their business. From nesting to seed spreading, fertilization to food, learn the reasons why it is important. Most appropriate for ages 6-14.

Tracking

Join us as we explore the clues left behind by animals as they go about their lives. We will also investigate the many ways tracking animals can help us learn about identification, behavior, and conservation. Most appropriate for ages 6-12.

Wild Careers!

Have you ever thought about working at the zoo? From education to zoo keeping, there is something for everyone here! Explore all your options and learn how you can get others "close enough to care." Most appropriate for ages 12 and up.

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Programs for the youngest learners:

Animal Movement

Animals rely on different parts of their body to move, which aids in their survival. Learn about the different body parts of animals and even see a few zoo animals move using different parts of their bodies. Learn how to move their own bodies in ways that some animals do. Most appropriate for ages 3-7.

Animal Needs

Why don't wild animals make good pets? While some animals live with people and rely on people to take care of them, wild animals must search for food, water, and shelter to survive. Explore the differences between domestic pets and animals in the wild and discover how you can make a better pet owner. Most appropriate for ages 2-6.

Animal Senses

Animals move and use their senses just like us. See for yourself how some different animals move, smell, hear, and feel and use a few of your own senses to learn how they survive in the wild! Most appropriate for ages 2-5.

Beastly Builders

From dens to dams, holes and hives, animals have different ways of finding and making shelter. Explore many types of homes animals build in the wild and how we re-create them here at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Most appropriate for ages 4-6.

*Programs are adjusted based on age appropriateness when booking for mixed ages.

For more specific information on how our programs meet New York State Science Learning Standards (NYSSLS) and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), or to inquire about booking a program, please contact Christian Delmotte, Education Programs Manager at (315) 435-8511 ext. 8559 or cdelmotte@rosamondgiffordzoo.org.