



What is Zoo Club?

Zoo Club is a program designed by the Saskatoon Zoo Society to fit into your school's lunch-time Environment/Ecology Club. It offers your club the opportunity to have a regular guest speaker attend your meetings. Once a month, between October and April, an interpreter from the Saskatoon Zoo Society will conduct a short (approximately 30-45 minutes) presentation on a natural history subject. In most cases the interpreter will have an animal ambassador from the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo, giving the students a close-up opportunity to learn about the animal.

Zoo Club is similar to a condensed version of our Outreach Program presentations. However, a Zoo Club presentation will have a stronger emphasis on conservation and environmental protection. The repeat visitation nature of Zoo Club allows us to build on the conservation theme and increase the students' understanding of environmental protection.

When does Zoo Club take place?

Zoo Club is offered to a limited number of schools each year, usually on a first come-first served basis. Presentations take place between October and April. The program is set up to meet the needs of groups that meet at lunchtime. After school programs can be arranged, but some restrictions may occur.

Fees:

The Saskatoon Zoo Society is an independent, non-profit environmental education organization. We operate separately from the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo, the City of Saskatoon and the Saskatoon Zoo Foundation. We are responsible for raising our own funds to sustain our programs. In order to make the Zoo Club a viable program we need to recoup our expenses associated with the program. This year the Zoo Club program is subsidized by the Saskatoon Zoo Society's membership program and fund raising initiatives such as the Zoo Run in April. This support makes the Zoo Club program possible.

However, we expect the students to undertake a fundraising initiative to help support the program. The Zoo Society has an Adopt-a-Critter donation program. We encourage groups to work towards symbolically adopting one or several animals to support our education programs. Groups can symbolically adopt an animal from the Zoo's collection for a donation of \$25.00 per animal. The fee is minimal and allows your group to take responsibility for funding the program, while still being able to fundraise for other environmental efforts you see worthwhile for your group to support. In the past, groups have participated in environmentally friendly fundraising activities such as recycling cans and bottles.

Adopt-a-Critter Program:

Included with each Adopt-a-Critter is a certificate indicating which animal has been adopted, a fact sheet about the animal, and a photograph of the animal. We strongly encourage your club to symbolically adopt an animal at the **start** of the school year. This way your club can display the photograph and certificate of the animal they have adopted on the club bulletin board or similar place in your school. Payment is not required at the start of the school year. The students can proudly have their Adopt-a-Critter on display while working towards fundraising for the adoption throughout the school year.

How to participate:

Only a limited number of schools can participate each year. To participate contact the Saskatoon Zoo Society (975-3395 or zoosociety@sasktel.net) to arrange a your Zoo Club schedule. Any questions or concerns can also be discussed.

Topics Available: Topics subject to change.

- (1) Animal introduction with biological artifacts such as horns, antlers, feet and scat.
- (2) Saskatchewan Grassland History with the Domestic Ferrets (PowerPoint presentation)
- (3) The ecology of the Swainson Hawk
- (4) Reptiles - Snakes
- (5) The ecology of the Great Horned Owl
- (6) An introduction to the American Porcupine
- (7) Mystery Creature (African Pygmy Hedgehogs or Lizards & Salamanders)

Contact Information:

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