

Guidelines for Adult Guides

Soon you will be up close to some of planet's rarest and most powerful creatures. For their well being and everyone's safety, carefully read this yourself and then review the separate *Guidelines for Young Explorers* with your students. **Adult Guides are responsible for their Young Explorers.**

Before You Begin

- ☞ During the ride to the zoo, review the Young Explorer Guidelines sheet with the students.
- ☞ Upon arrival in the zoo parking area, your Group Leader will announce your arrival. While that's happening, have your group line up outside the gift shop entrance to be counted and have their hand stamped for express entry into the zoo.
- ☞ Make sure you have a map with a schedule of events before you leave the zoo entrance building. This will describe the events and help you plan your time and find all the activities among the 52-acres.
- ☞ Read the large green zoo rules sign at the entrance to the main trail with your group. Please model and encourage consideration toward the animals.
- ☞ Restrooms are located in the gift shop and along the shore of Lake Victoria. With larger groups, it is best to plan breaks away from typical busy times like the rush immediately after a show.
- ☞ The zoo does not have a paging system, so pick a location to meet if someone gets separated from the group.
- ☞ For the preservation of the plants and animals, Naples Zoo is a non-smoking environment. Adult guides are permitted to smoke in the parking area in front of the gift shop.

Safety in the ZOO

- ☞ Make sure everyone washes their hands after touching any animal and especially before eating.
- ☞ In case of heavy rain or lightning, return to the gift shop. Do not stand beneath a large tree or in Safari Canyon.
- ☞ In the event of a minor scrape or cut, basic items like bandages and antiseptic are located in the gift shop for you to apply to the child. If there is a more serious injury, please send someone to the nearest zoo staff member or gift shop to call for medical attention.
- ☞ Never cross any barrier. If a personal item becomes located across a barrier, please ask a keeper or staff member to retrieve it. Most zoo tragedies reported in the national news arise from crossing barriers or trying to touch wild animals.
- ☞ Keep your Young Explorers on the paths. Be especially careful around the exotic flora away from the main path. In addition to being very sharp, the sap of some plants can be very irritating to the skin or permanently damaging to eyes. The fruit of some of these plants can also be harmful if eaten. And along with the typical hazards of tree climbing, native animals including snakes often make homes up in the large Banyan type trees.
- ☞ Encourage your group to take their time. Running is not only risky for the children, but it is also stressful to animals. Predators see children as prey and seeing a child run causes frustration by triggering the instinct to chase. Prey species can often be spooked by the fast movement and initiate an evasive retreat. Either one of these actions can cause injury to these precious animals.

NOTE: Zoo staff or appropriate law enforcement may remove any Young Explorer or Adult Guide found violating the institution's rules including throwing objects at animals or defacing the botanical collection. A student's removal will require at least one adult guide to stay with the child or children on the bus or in the parking area.

NAPLES ZOO