

Peoria Zoo Birthday Frequently Asked Questions

What ages are appropriate for Birthday Parties at Peoria Zoo?

All ages can enjoy a unique birthday at the Zoo! The most common age for a Zoo birthday party is 4-8 years old. Each age experiences the Zoo a bit differently and lots of birthdays include both kids and adults. Younger party guests do not engage in the animal presentation as much as older party guests, but generally enjoy viewing the animal ambassadors up close. A Zoo birthday is perfect for any animal lover in your life!

How far in advance do I need to book my party?

Our party schedule can fill up quickly. We suggest you book at least a month in advance to secure the date and time you want. Parties must be booked at least two weeks in advance.

Are deposits refundable?

Deposits are due at the time of booking to reserve your time and date. Deposit is \$150 with the remaining balance due 2 weeks before the party with the exception of money due for extra guests as a final head count will take place the day of your party. Cancellations made more than 14 days in advance of the date of the event will receive a 50% refund, or will be eligible to transfer the event to another date for an additional \$50. No refunds will be issued for cancellations made within 14 days of the event.

Do Peoria Zoo Members receive a discount?

Peoria Zoo Members are allowed 2 extra guests for their birthday party.

Do I need to know the exact number of guests prior to the party?

No. All we need is an estimate of the number of guests you expect to attend. We ask that you plan for the largest number of guests expected when choosing your birthday party room. If your estimated total changes closer to the party date we ask that you let us know.

Who is counted in the birthday party attendance total?

Any party guest age 2 and above, including the birthday person and birthday host, is counted in the birthday party attendance total. This also includes Peoria Zoo Members, as the programming is not included in their membership or a regular zoo visit. Please refer to individual party package for number of guests included in package and the cost for additional guests.

Can I extend my birthday party time?

Due to the number of birthdays at the Zoo, we cannot extend party times. Birthday parties must end on time to allow for the room to be set up for the next program.

Is outside food allowed at the birthday party?

You are welcome to bring food in for your birthday party. It is important to note that no refrigeration is available. We recommend, from past experience, to keep it simple if you choose to bring in outside food. Foods like pizza or sandwiches work best. Please do not have food delivered to the Zoo for the party.

Remember that you will need to carry anything extra to the party room, so a wagon or rolling cooler is a wise idea (the Zoo does not have carts). You will also need to bring your own plates, cups, napkins, silverware, and serving utensils.

Please let the Education staff know if you will be bringing in food. Choosing to serve food at your birthday party will need to be factored into the time allotted.

Can I bring in my own decorations?

Yes, if you would like to bring your own decorations, you may. We recommend table top decorations. We do provide paper and crayons on the tables. Each room has unique views and most often birthday hosts choose not to add decorations to the party. Please remember that **balloons, confetti, pinatas, noise maker, and bouncy balls are not allowed** at Peoria Zoo for animal safety.

Birthday hosts who choose to bring in decorations may arrive 15 minutes before their scheduled party time to decorate, but will need to leave another adult at the front of the Zoo to gather remaining guests to escort them or direct them to the party. The Birthday Party Coordinator will need to open the room for the birthday host and will not be able to return to the front to help gather and direct guests. Due to the number of birthdays at the Zoo and space constraints, we are not able to have decorations dropped off early. Please let the Education department know if you would like to decorate prior to your party.

What if the weather is inclement? Will the birthday party still go on?

Yes, unless the Zoo is closed for inclement weather, which has rarely ever happened, the birthday party will be held. Accommodations such as moving to another party room location will be made, if necessary.

How can I decide between birthday party rooms options?

The Deluxe Birthday Party Package is the only package that offers a choice of rooms. Online at <https://www.peoriazoo.org/birthdays/> are several photos of the birthday party rooms. Sometimes the size the birthday party can help in choosing rooms. Treetop holds 20-25 people comfortably; while the Tropics holds 35-40 comfortably.

What do I need to do to reserve my birthday party?

Call the Education Department at (309) 681-3559 to reserve your birthday party. A contract will be sent, and will need to be signed and returned. All of our packages require a nonrefundable \$150.00 deposit at time of booking. (Birthday Party Packs require a full payment at the time of

booking.) This deposit is applied towards the total cost of your party. The balance of your party package is due 2 weeks prior to your birthday party and any extra cost due to number of guests, goody bags, etc. is due promptly at end of the birthday party.