



Overnights Group Leader Guide:

Rising Waters

Program Dates and Rates

Cost: \$42 per person

Rising Waters concentrates on how Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is protecting wildlife from immediate threats in Africa and Asia, including the illegal trade of wildlife. Campers that stay in the Rising Waters Safari Camp will be exposed to African and Asian cultures, participate in conservation oriented activities and experience close up encounters with the Zoo's small ambassador animals. Night hikes, snacks and fun (including free Zoo admission following the program) make Rising Waters a memorable experience for kids of all ages. The minimum group size is 15 people¹ with at least one adult registered per group.¹

Looking for a night at the Zoo without the kids? We also offer Rising Waters Adult Nights during the months of June, July, and August that includes dinner, gourmet s'mores and cash bar. For more information on this program, pricing and availability, go to futureforwildlife.org/learn.

¹Groups with less than 15 people can call 216.635.3391 to schedule by phone on dates with existing registered groups.

Goals and Objectives

We want your group to have a great time while learning about animals.

The Rising Waters Overnight program at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo supports the organizational mission to create compelling experiences that connect people with wildlife and inspire personal responsibility for conserving the natural world. All Conservation Education programs are designed to help foster respect for, connections with, and appreciation of wildlife and coexisting human cultures.

Rising Waters Program Guidelines

- ◆ The program hours are 7:00 PM – 10:00 AM.
- ◆ Accommodations consist of a large walk-in safari tent, which includes four (4) twin sized bunk beds so each tent can sleep a total of eight (8) people.
- ◆ Restrooms are within walking distance, but there are no showers.
- ◆ Group demographics
 - Participants must be at least six years old to participate.
 - Chaperones must be a minimum of 18 years old, and must participate in the entire program.
 - There must be at least one adult chaperone present for every group. One adult will be admitted free for each set of 10 children (which is the minimum recommended chaperone-to-child ratio) that are part of each unique registration.
- ◆ All participants must follow all Zoo rules and the instructions of Zoo Staff members, including but not limited to the following:
 - Waiver/emergency treatment release form must be filled out and signed on both sides. **All participants (children and adults) are required to have a separate form.**
 - No coolers, drink items, or food items are permitted. **Snacks for medical reasons are allowed. Reusable water bottles may be brought to the program.**
 - **Campers should eat dinner before arriving at the Zoo.** If a participant has special dietary needs, please indicate this on your Roster Form next to the participant's name.
 - No smoking is allowed and drinking of alcoholic beverages is not permitted.
 - There are limited outlets available for charging of personal devices so please limit your device usage during the program.
 - In case of emergency, campers can be reached through the Cleveland Metroparks Police Department at 440.331.5530 or you can try the Overnight Program phone at 216.780.1377.

Program Checklist

Upon Registration

Non-refundable deposit must be paid

A 25% non-refundable deposit of your total fee is required to secure your space for the evening. This deposit will be credited to your final payment. We reserve the right to re-assign your sleeping area as needed or reschedule your overnight if we have fewer than 15 campers registered for the evening.

Fourteen (14) days before your program

Roster of attendees and completed waiver forms are due

Both the roster (including group's name, child vs. adult notation, and medical or dietary needs) and completed waiver forms are also due at this time. These can be emailed to programregistration@clevelandmetroparks.com, faxed to 216.661.3312, or mailed as a packet to 3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland, OH 44109. **It is extremely important that we receive this paperwork in advance** to better serve the needs of our program attendees, review special accommodation requests, contact you/members of your group regarding individual medication plans, and finalize staff and supplies needed for the program.

Eight (8) days before your program

Final count of participants and payment due

You have until this time to make changes to your group's size. You may reduce your headcount but **you may only increase if there are remaining spaces available** as verified by the Education Registration Office. After this date you will be liable to pay for all reserved spaces.

Please Note: The Group Leader must provide a single payment to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for the final payment of the Overnight program. If a group contains individuals who want to pay separately, the collection of those payments are the sole responsibility of the Group Leader. **If payment is not received within this time frame, your reservation will be subject to cancellation.**

Two (2) days before your program

Roster Changes

Any changes in your program roster should be made by this time by calling the Education Registration Office at 216.635.3391 (e.g. if you are exchanging one camper for another with no number changes).

No additional campers will be accepted on the day of the program. There will be no refunds for no-shows. Payments cannot be accepted by Overnight Staff.

What to Bring

- ◆ **Sleeping bags and pillows** are necessary. We will provide thin camping mats to sleep on.
- ◆ **Comfortable closed-toe shoes and clothing** (sleepwear, change of clothes, rain gear, toiletries, outdoor garments, and comfortable shoes) that are appropriate for the day's weather. Unless weather is severe, activities will take place rain or shine and program attendees will do a moderate amount of walking. Umbrellas and raincoats are acceptable; however program attendees are responsible for carrying those items throughout the day. Footwear where the foot is exposed (i.e. sandals, flip flops, etc.) is not permitted in behind the scene animal areas but are ok for walking around at bedtime.
- ◆ **Insect repellent** – participants are responsible for their own insect repellent.
- ◆ **Medication** – medications will be the responsibility of the group chaperone or parent of the participant.
- ◆ **Reusable water bottles**

Map

From I-71: Exit at West 25th Street and follow the Zoo signs. The Zoo is approximately one mile from the I-71 exit.

From I-90: Take I-71 South, exit at West 25th Street and follow the Zoo signs.

From I-480: The Zoo is approximately two miles from the I-480 exit. Exit State Road (north) to Pearl Road. Follow Pearl Rd to Memphis Ave. Take a left on Memphis Ave. Take Memphis Ave to Fulton Pkwy and turn right onto Fulton Pkwy. Follow Fulton Pkwy and make a right onto Wildlife Way.

From I-80 (Ohio Turnpike): Zoo accessed from two exits. Take Exit 173/11 to I-77 North, to I-480 West to State Road (north) to Pearl Road. Follow Pearl Rd to Memphis Ave. Take a left on Memphis Ave. Take Memphis Ave to Fulton Pkwy and turn right onto Fulton Pkwy. Follow Fulton Pkwy and make a right onto Wildlife Way. Or, take Exit 161/10 to I-71 North to the West 25th Street exit then follow Zoo signs.

From Akron: Follow I-77 (north) to I-480 (west), exit at State Road (north) to Pearl Road. Follow Pearl Rd to Memphis Ave. Take a left on Memphis Ave. Take Memphis Ave to Fulton Pkwy and turn right onto Fulton Pkwy. Follow Fulton Pkwy and make a right onto Wildlife Way.



Arrival/Departure Procedures

The program hours are 7:00 PM – 10:00 AM.

- ◆ We prefer that your entire group be present for the entirety of the program. However, if a member of your group needs to arrive late or leave before the program is finished, you must call 216-635-3391 prior to your program to notify us. We ask that you also include this information on your roster form.
- ◆ You will be parking in the **Lion Lot**. A staff member will meet you there at 6:45 with a Zoo van to load your gear into and escort you to the Rising Waters Safari Camp.
- ◆ If you **arrive after 6:45**, please call the Overnight Program phone at 216.780.1377 and someone will return to the Reinberger Education Center to meet you.
- ◆ If a participant becomes ill during any part of the program, we will assist them in making arrangements to get home. Please make sure that all children have their waiver forms filled out with emergency contact phone numbers of someone who can be reached during their stay at the Zoo.
- ◆ If a child is being picked up from the Zoo when the program is completed at 10:00 AM the child and chaperone will be escorted to the main gate to await the arrival of the child's parent. It may take some extra time to reach the main gate from where the program is completed.

Rising Waters Program Schedule

(Times are approximate and programming is subject to change.)

EVENING

6:45 Arrival

- ◆ Please arrive promptly.
- ◆ Please park in the Lion Lot and meet at the Reinberger Education Center. An instructor will greet you and show you where to unload your gear.

7:00 Program Begins

- ◆ Welcome and introduction.
- ◆ A walk through the African Savanna
- ◆ Campers will meet some of the Zoo's Ambassador Animals.
- ◆ The Zoo will provide a light evening snack.
- ◆ S'mores by the campfire.
- ◆ Activities focusing on African and Asian wildlife
- ◆ An evening hike through the Zoo's Wilderness Trek and Asian Highlands.

11:00 Bedtime

- ◆ Night time programming complete.

MORNING

7:00 Wake Up

- ◆ Clean up and pack up gear.
- ◆ The Zoo will provide a light continental breakfast.
- ◆ A visit to the Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine.
- ◆ A behind the scenes tour.

10:00 Program Ends

- ◆ Conservation Education staff will escort the group to the main gate. If the group is remaining in the Zoo they will be given wristbands and dismissed from the program ending point.
- ◆ If any children are being picked up by a parent that did not attend the program, they will arrive down at the main gate as close to 10:00 AM as possible.

