Classroom Outreach Programs

Bring our STEM experts to your class and create memories for your students. We provide hands-on educational experiences that make science come alive and foster a lifelong love for conservation.

Basic Information

- Presentation duration is 45 minutes to one hour
- Programs are aligned with Nebraska Science Standards, Iowa Core, and Next Generation Science Standards
- Program fee is $100. Include a live animal for an additional $50
- Six or Eight week units are also available, please ask for pricing
- Because of the interactive nature of this program, group size is limited to about 30 people. For larger groups please schedule an assembly program.
- Three weeks’ notice is required for an animal visit. We are sometimes able to schedule short notice programs without an animal, please call for availability.
- The animals that are able to travel with our outreach programs include reptiles, small mammals, arachnids, amphibians, and even some endangered species!

Outreach Topics

Appropriate for All Ages:

- Animal Superpowers
  - Did you know that animals have super powers? Learn about the amazing abilities that help animals adapt to and modify their environments, and how these super powers help them survive. Students will get to see, hear and touch artifacts from our super powered animals.

- Habitats
  - Learn how animals survive in different habitats around the world through interactive activities, live animals, and Zoo artifacts. Discover that all living things need food, water, and shelter to survive. Many groups choose to focus on a specific habitat such as rainforests, deserts, or African grasslands.

- Zoo Science Investigation
  - Students will apply the scientific method as they perform a fun animal and conservation-based investigation suitable to their grade level. In addition to topics in animal conservation, students will use their skills of data collection, math and asking scientific questions.

- Zoo Careers
  - Invite the Zoo to your classroom and discuss the many careers found at the Zoo. We have jobs for everyone, from zookeepers and veterinarians to chefs and accountants.

- Oceans
  - More than 70% of the earth is covered in oceans. Take a trip with Nebraska’s largest aquarium to explore the fascinating creatures that live under water.
Pre K – Grade 1

- **Animal Communication**
  - How does a tiger say *I like you*? Learn the many ways that tigers and other animals communicate, and find out why it is important for animals to communicate with each other. By playing games and mimicking animal sounds and activities, kids will understand the why communication is important to animals.

- **Animal Movement**
  - An ideal program for preschool and day care groups. Discover how animals move through story-telling, puppets, demonstrations, role-play, and live animals. Kids will get up and move around the room in a fun, interactive learning experience.

- **Bugs**
  - Learn all about spiders, insects and other bugs. We will make a giant balloon spider and practice catching prey in our giant spider web among many fun games and activities. By the end of the program students will have a new understanding of and appreciation for bugs.

Grade 2 – Grade 6

- **Penguins**
  - Explore real penguin feathers, practice waddling like a penguin and holding an egg on your feet as you learn about the adaptations of these unique birds.

- **Nebraska (or Iowa!) Wildlife and Ecosystems**
  - Find out what is alive in your backyard and beyond. From the insects and snakes in your garden to the bison that roam the plains, your state is host to some amazing wildlife. Students might get a chance to touch the antlers of an elk and the skin of a snake as they learn about local habitats, ecosystems and food chains.

- **You and the Environment or “My Friend the Sea Turtle”**
  - The choices you make every day impact the environment positively and negatively. From our own homes, we affect animals around the world. Students learn how they can help sea turtles through the simple act of buying groceries, and will learn about how they can become an advocate to help endangered wildlife around the world.

Grade 7 – Grade 12

- **Endangered Species: Politics, Economics and the Environment**
  - Bring higher level thinking skills into the incredibly complex interdisciplinary world of protecting endangered species. How does an animal get recognized as an endangered species? Discover the role of political, economic and social issues in local and international conservation.

- **The Amur Tiger: A Case Study in Conservation**
  - The Amur tiger is a critically endangered cat on the brink of extinction. Students will explore biological factors that affect populations of endangered species such as genetic diversity, bottlenecks, and habitat fragmentation. They will help create a species survival plan as they attempt to solve the complex issues that led to the decline of this species.

Customized Program

With sufficient notice it is possible for us to create a custom program for your specific topic. Please call or email if you have a request and we'll see if we can help.

For more information or to schedule an outreach, please call (402) 738-2092 or email zoo2you@omahazoo.com