

CRITTER CAMP-IN!

Greetings from Buttonwood Park Zoo!

We are so excited to have you spend the night with us! Please read the following materials thoroughly, as understanding them will be vital to the success of our evening. If you have any questions that are not answered in these materials, please reach out to the Overnight Coordinator at (508) 991-4556 ext. 122 or via email at LRidgway@bpzoo.org.

Finding the Zoo:

- Buttonwood Park Zoo is located at **425 Hawthorn Street New Bedford, MA 02740**.
- From Rte. I-195, take exit 24A (140 South). Follow Rte. 140 to the end. Go straight through the light at the end of Rte. 140 (across Rte. 6). At the next light, make a left onto Hawthorn Street. The Zoo parking area is the first left on Hawthorn.

You may park temporarily in the half circle on your left (in front of the Zoo's admission building) to unload your belongings before moving your vehicle to the main lot. A staff member will meet you in front of the Zoo starting at 5:50 pm. Make sure to allow enough time for traffic in your traveling.

What to bring: Please make every effort to only bring what can be carried in one trip.

- Sleeping bag
- Pillow
- Change of clothes
- Pajamas
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Comb/Hairbrush
- Deodorant
- Sleeping pad/Cot/Inflatable mattress (optional)

We do not allow children to bring cell phones, iPads, gaming devices, or any other electronic items to Critter Camp-Ins. We ask that you not bring food to your overnight event. If you need to bring your own food due to medical, cultural, or religious reasons, please discuss this before your Camp-In with the Overnight Coordinator.

What to wear:

Each individual should wear outerwear and shoes suitable for an outdoor walk around the zoo grounds in all weather conditions. A glow-in-the-dark t-shirt will be handed out for participants to wear during the tour and take home with them. Please be aware that the Zoo does not have shower facilities.

DETAILS

General Overnight Schedule

PM Schedule

6:00 pm- Arrival and Unloading
6:15 pm- Introduction and Safety Information
6:30 pm- Dinner and Dessert
7:00 pm- Animal Encounter and Tour
9:30 pm- "Creature Feature" Movie

AM Schedule

6:30 am- Wake Up, Get Ready, Pack Up
6:45 am- Breakfast
7:15 am- Animal Encounter and Tour
8:00 am- Critter Camp-In End

Medications:

All medications are the responsibility of chaperones. If medications require refrigeration, please discuss this beforehand with the Overnight Coordinator.

Meals:

Cheese pizza, water, and lemonade will be served for dinner followed by an ice cream dessert. In the morning, a variety of cereal, fruit, milk, and orange juice will be offered. Coffee will be available for adults. Barring any medical or cultural dietary restrictions, all participants will enjoy the above listed foods. Any restrictions are the responsibility of chaperones and should be discussed with the Overnight Coordinator prior to your Camp-In. A fridge and microwave will be provided upon request for those that need to bring their own meals.

Creature Feature:

To end the evening, an animal-themed feature film will be shown and popcorn provided. Critter Camp-In participants will sleep in our climate controlled classrooms on carpeted floors. A staff member will sleep across the hall and a night watchman will be on zoo grounds at all times during your visit.

Chaperones:

While we hope that chaperones have just as much fun as the children, we ask that they be active in supervision and discipline (if necessary) so that staff can concentrate on education and activities.

Questions?

If you have any questions that have not been answered, please feel free to call the Overnight Coordinator at (508) 991-4556 ext. 122 or email LRidgway@bpzoo.org. Most importantly, come prepared for a fantastically fun night. The animals are waiting!

Sincerely,
Laurel Ridgway
Overnight Coordinator
Education Specialist

Critter Camp-In FAQs!

Where will we sleep?

Participants will spend the night in our secure education classrooms carpeted with economy grade carpet. The overnight staff member will sleep across the hall and a night watchman will be on zoo grounds at all times.

Should we bring flashlights?

During the night hike, red-lens flashlights will be carried by your tour leaders. It is essential that only red-lens flashlights be used because most animals cannot see red light. Other flashlights on the tour will be a distraction to both the group and the animals. However, if participants would feel more comfortable with flashlights near them in the sleeping area, please feel free to bring them along.

Can I bring the payment and forms with me on the night of our event?

Once the deposit has been submitted, the Overnight Coordinator will send our online After Hours Programs Agreement Form to the primary contact for your group. It is the responsibility of the primary contact to distribute the link to all participants. The agreement forms must be completed and the payment must be sent to the Overnight Coordinator **two weeks** prior to your event. If a participant does not complete the form in the allotted time, they will not be allowed to attend the Critter Camp-In.

What happens if it rains?

The tour will continue as planned, so please be sure to bring appropriate clothing if rain is in the forecast. If your program must be cancelled due to severe weather, your group will be given the opportunity to reschedule or receive a refund.

Should I bring money to the overnight?

A patch and glow-in-the-dark t-shirt is included in the cost of your overnight program and will be distributed before the tour begins. Critter Camp-Ins end at 8:00 am, and the Zoo and the North Woods Gift Store does not open until 9:00am. Zoo admission for the day before or after your program is **not** included in the cost of the Critter Camp-In.

Have a question that hasn't been answered?

Please call the Overnight Coordinator at (508) 991-4556 ext. 122
or email LRidgway@bpzoo.org