



Bring your group to the Zoo!

Pine Grove Zoo is the second oldest zoo in Minnesota. It is nestled among some of Minnesota's oldest white pine trees and is home to a variety of native and exotic animals. Modern, interactive exhibits and a small zoo setting allow us to provide visitors with a one-of-a-kind experience that is educational and fun.

Our Mission:

To promote environmental education and conservation while creating a progressive zoological park in central Minnesota.

Our Vision:

To have families and individuals live their lives with a passionate respect for the entire realm of the natural world.

What to do at the zoo:

Whether you have one hour or all day, your trip can be customized to fit your schedule.

- **Enjoy ANIMAL EXHIBITS:**

Your group will encounter a variety of exotic animals from around the world, from black bears and bobcats to Siberian tigers and zebras. Plan on spending an hour enjoying the exhibits, but you can spend more or less time depending on your interests.

- **Interact with PETTING STABLE animals:**

A petting stable provides a safe place for groups to feed and interact with various domestic animals. Coin feeders located at the prairie dog exhibit and the petting stable give visitors a fun way to donate to the zoo.

- **Visit the "BEAR NECESSITIES" gift shop:**

Our gift shop has a variety of souvenir items for all ages.

- **Eat at the COUGAR CAFÉ:**

- The café is open 11:00 – 3:00, Memorial Day through Labor Day. The menu offers a variety of meal and snack options at affordable prices.
- You can also choose to bring your own lunch. Outside food is not allowed within the zoo, but you can enjoy a picnic lunch at the adjacent Pine Grove Park (see below). Guests receive a hand stamp for re-entry into the Zoo later the same day. Drinks are allowed within the zoo, but NO glass, straws, or disposable plastic lids.

- **Walk, eat, and play at PINE GROVE PARK:**

Outside the zoo, walking trails weave through large stands of white pine trees and lead groups to the "Primeval Pine Grove Park." The picnic area is an easy walking distance from the Zoo parking lot and includes a playground and restrooms.

Hours and Admission Rates

Mid April – Mid October

Open daily 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

General Admission

\$7.00 per person
Children 3 and under are free

Self-Guided Tour (group rate)

\$5.00 per person
Groups must have 13 or more unrelated people
*Memberships do not apply

Guided Tour

\$7.00 per person
Children 3 and under are free
*Memberships do not apply

Punch Cards

\$150 for 30 punches – card expires at the end of the season
(This option is great for groups that do not qualify for the group rate and plan to come to the more than once.)

Pine Grove Zoo Rules

In order for our guests to have an enjoyable visit to the zoo, we ask that everyone observe the following rules:

- **Keep our animals healthy: only feed designated animals from feeders.** Our animals are on very special diets. Snacks, “people food,” or foreign objects can make them very ill.
- **Keep our animals happy: do not taunt or tease the animals.** Animal harassment will not be tolerated. Our animals need to be treated with respect.
- **Keep our animals safe:** do not throw objects or reach into exhibits.
- **Keep yourself safe: stay on walking paths.** This is for your safety as well as that of our animals. Do not cross fences into restricted areas. Do not reach into exhibits
- **No Smoking.** Please refrain from smoking on Zoo Grounds. Smoking allowed in parking lot only.
- **No Pets** (unless they are a service animal and have identification)
- **No food**
- **Beverages are allowed.** No glass bottles, straws, or disposable plastic lids.
- **Keep our zoo looking great:** please use the trash receptacles.

These items are banned from the Zoo:

- Bikes, Skateboards, Roller Blades, Roller Skates or Scooters
- Cigarettes
- Playground balls (Rubber, Soccer, Football, Baseball, etc.)

Additional Logistical Information

- Restrooms are located inside zoo grounds and in Pine Grove Park.
- Zoo paths are wheelchair and handicap accessible. Handicap parking spaces are available.
- A limited number of wagons, wheel chairs, and walkers are available free to use on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Education Opportunities

The zoo's Education Department strives to make your group's visit educational, interactive, and fun. The educational programs are designed to make a trip to the zoo an affordable and entertaining adventure for any group.

Our Education Department Mission:

To present educational programs for all ages, build partnerships with local schools, and provide interpretive information throughout Pine Grove Zoo in order to build an understanding and respect for nature and wildlife.

- **Informal Public Programs** (Memorial Day through Labor Day)
Join our zookeepers for one of our regularly scheduled talks and demonstrations!
Mondays at 2:15 - Critter Encounters
Wednesdays at 2:15 - Animal Training Demo
Saturdays at 10:15 - C.H.O.M.P (Carnivore Herbivore Omnivore Meal Presentation)
- **Self-guided field trips** allow your group to tour the zoo at your own pace. Groups can read interpretive signs at each exhibit and visit the Wolf Education Building to learn about our resident animals and their wild counterparts. We will also be introducing QR codes throughout the zoo to use with your smartphone or rentable iPads to learn more about our animals.
- **Guided tours** are an interactive and age-appropriate way to learn more about the animals at the Zoo. These tours take approximately 45 min – 1.5 hours and include zoo souvenirs and activities to take home. General tours are available for all ages. Tours for younger grades focus on specific concepts based on Minnesota Academic Standards:
 - **Kindergarten:** Observe animal body parts and compare to other animals or humans
 - **1st Grade:** Group animals based on their similarities (mammals, reptiles, birds, etc.)
 - **2nd Grade:** Identify the different ways animals fulfill their basic needs (food, water, space, and air)
 - **3rd Grade:** Explore amazing animal adaptations
 - **4th Grade:** Discover how humans have impacted animals in the wild
- Off-site **Outreach Programs** are also available. These presentations are hands-on and give groups an opportunity to learn about a variety of species and meet live animals up close. Outreach programs can be used as a connection between your Zoo trip and your classroom, or can stand alone for groups that are not able to visit the Zoo in person. We offer three programs to choose from:

Classy Critters: Animal Diversity (3rd Grade to Adult)

What makes a bird a bird? How is a reptile different? See the world through the eyes of a taxonomist and find out how scientists classify groups of animals. Meet 3-4 of our education animals as you learn about what makes each of them unique.

A Balancing Act: Predators, Prey, and their Ecosystems (3rd Grade to Adult)

Did you know that wolves can change how water flows through a stream? In this program we explore how every species – whether they are eating or getting eaten – has an important role in maintaining balance in the ecosystem. Meet 2-3 animals that each have a different place in the food chain.

Animal Habitats (Kindergarten to 2nd Grade)

Where do animals live? Through activities and meeting live animals we will see that wild critters have the same basic needs that we do.