Welcome and thank you for choosing the Kansas City Zoo education department for your children’s learning. The Kansas City Zoo’s mission is to connect people to each other and the natural world to promote understanding, appreciation, and conservation. When Science Attacks, our homeschool program, achieves this through hands-on academic experiences.

Classes are designed to be age appropriate and are supervised by Zoo teaching staff at all times. Activities may include, but are not limited to: games, crafts, on grounds tours, zoo shows, zoo rides, playgrounds, science experiments, reading and writing, demonstrations, and group discussions.

This welcome packet outlines what your young scientist(s) can expect and what the teacher will expect from your child and provides a list of dates and themes for each class. Please review this packet with your children before the first day of class.

If you have questions at any time, feel free to contact me. Again, welcome to When Science Attacks.

Aubrye Keeling
School Programs Supervisor
aubryekeeling@fotzkc.org
816.595.1766
### Spring 2020 Details

**Wednesday Classes:** 2 time options  
**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**  
**1:30 pm – 3:00 pm (Not offered for 6th-8th)**

**Thursday Class:** 1 time option  
**10:30 am – 12:00 pm**

**Fees:** $9/class, semester rate for all 8 classes: $61.20 (15% discount)

### Class Schedule

#### Designed for K-2nd grade students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 8 or 9</td>
<td>Changing Seasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 22 or 23</td>
<td>Animal Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 5 or 6</td>
<td>Nature Explorers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 19 or 20</td>
<td>What’s Wild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 4 or 5</td>
<td>Home Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 18 or 19</td>
<td>Life Cycles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 1 or 2</td>
<td>Metamorphosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 15 or 16</td>
<td>Pollination</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Designed for 3rd-5th grade students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 8 or 9</td>
<td>Good Buddies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 22 or 23</td>
<td>Carrying Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 5 or 6</td>
<td>Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 19 or 20</td>
<td>Everything is Connected</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 4 or 5</td>
<td>What We Inherit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 18 or 19</td>
<td>Comparing Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 1 or 2</td>
<td>Quick-Frozen Critters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 15 or 16</td>
<td>Semester Wrap-Up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Designed for 6th-8th grade students:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 8 or 9</td>
<td>Animal Personalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 22 or 23</td>
<td>Growing Up Wild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 5 or 6</td>
<td>Who Fits Here?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 19 or 20</td>
<td>Survive and Thrive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 4 or 5</td>
<td>Toxins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 18 or 19</td>
<td>Physics of Flight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 1 or 2</td>
<td>Animal Sounds and Waves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 15 or 16</td>
<td>Wildlife Forensics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reservation Policies

General Reservation Policies:
Full payment is due at the time of registration.

This program is open to Friends of the Zoo (FOTZ) members only. To become a member visit www.kansascityzoo.org and select Membership.

Weather Cancellation Policy:
Classes will be cancelled if the school districts nearest the Zoo are closed due to weather. We will notify parents via e-mail of the cancellation by 8:00 am if this is the case. There will be no refunds or makeup classes offered, but our instructors will follow up with an email to all families containing the curriculum for the missed class so that parents can complete the lesson at home, and families will be able to pick up any necessary craft materials from the Zoo when we are open at any point during the semester. If weather is questionable yet classes are still being held, families may choose to either attend or request an emailed copy of their curriculum depending on what they deem the best decision for their own situation.

Cancellation/Refunds:
- The Zoo reserves the right to cancel classes if registration is below required minimum.
- No refunds for cancellations made less than 14 days prior to program start date.
- Cancellations made more than 14 days prior to the program will receive a 75% refund.
- Cancellations may be done via phone 816-595-1765 or email edushared@fotzkc.org
- No refunds for unused classes or withdrawal from the program.
- No refunds if a child’s behavior requires he/she be sent home or dismissed from the program.
- Absences for reasons such as illness can be reported to Education Reservations at 816.595.1765, but is not required.

Date Change Policy:
Staffing and resources are scheduled for the number of pre-registered students for each class day and time. Occasionally parents may need to switch a day or time. Please contact Aubrye Keeling (816.595.1766 or aubryekeeling@fotzkc.org) to inquire about any date or time change.

Questions? Contact KCZoo Education at 816.595.1765 or education@fotzkc.org
General Information

Program Location:
When Science Attacks is located in the Zoo Learning Center (ZLC) located just to the right of the Zoo entrance. Education reservations are located inside the ZLC office and the classes take place in the classrooms. Grade level signs will be posted to designate the assigned classroom.

Daily Participant Sign-in/Sign-out:
An adult is required to drop off & pick up program participants from their assigned classroom. Parent or guardian will initial on the student roster. Please arrive a few minutes prior to class start time for sign in.

Daily Participant Sign-in/Sign-out, cont’d:
Departure—parent or guardian will initial on the student roster. Note—no child will be released until they have been signed out on the roster. Please arrive on time for pickup. A late fee of $5 will be assessed for pickups that are greater than 15 minutes past the end time of the class. If early pick-up is needed, please notify education reservations staff in our education offices (816.595.1761)

Dress:
Students should dress for the weather. Classes often go outside onto the Zoo grounds so comfortable walking shoes (please no open-toed shoes) and layers (jackets, long sleeve shirts, rain coats/ponchos) appropriate to the temperature and precipitation outside are a must. Additionally, experiments and crafts in the classroom may involve paints and other messy materials.

Emergencies:
If there is an emergency and you need to remove your student early, please call the following numbers until you reach Zoo staff:

816.595.1766 – School Programs Supervisor
816.595.1765 – Education Reservations
816.595.1234 – Zoo Switchboard

What to Bring:
Water bottles, sunscreen, hats, and bug spray are all encouraged. Program staff is not permitted to assist children with the application of any product, and participants are responsible for any items they bring to class. Staff are not allowed to administer any type of medication to children.

Money, jewelry, electronics (unless requested for use in the lesson), toys, outside food, fireworks (**), lighters, weapons (**), drugs (**), alcohol (**), cigarettes (**), personal sports equipment, or other inappropriate items are not allowed. These items will be confiscated and parent/guardian will be notified by the program supervisor. If the confiscated item (designated with an **) violates the Zoo’s policies the student will be sent home immediately and removed from the program.

Questions? Contact KCZoo Education at 816.595.1765 or education@fotzkc.org
Behavior Policy

To ensure a fun, productive, and safe environment, education staff has established the following guidelines. Please review the following expectations with your child prior to class. Note: No refunds will be given for dismissals due to a child’s behavior.

- Stay with, listen to, and respect instructors.
- Respect classmates, other staff, and zoo visitors.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Don’t run. Stay on designated paths only.
- Leave native animals, flowers, and plants for others to enjoy.
- Respect the animals-- do not yell at, attempt to touch, tease, feed, or disrupt normal animal behavior.
- A child’s inappropriate behavior that continues to infringe upon others’ experiences or any animal’s safety may warrant dismissal. The Kansas City Zoo reserves the right to dismiss a student from the program. Inappropriate behavior will result in one of the following steps (steps may be skipped depending on the seriousness of the behavior):
  1) First verbal warning.
  2) Sit out next activity.
  3) Homeschool supervisor calls parent contact.**
  4) Homeschool supervisor calls parent/guardian and student must leave zoo premises.**

**Consequences 3 and 4 will be documented in writing. This document will be available upon request.

Goals, Outcomes & Activities

Goals & Outcomes:

“The mission of the Kansas City Zoo Education Department is to positively change behavior by instilling in all people the desire and knowledge to respect and conserve wildlife and nature.”

With this in mind, programs at the Kansas City Zoo strive to...

1. Introduce students to the animal kingdom and nature, in general
2. Promote scientific discovery
3. Explore the natural history of animals
4. Stress the importance of ecosystems and habitats
5. Introduce students to animal-based career fields
6. Help students take an active role in the stewardship of our environment
7. Provide opportunities that stimulate social growth and self-esteem
Class Activities:

Age-appropriate lessons are designed to expose students to animals and nature while practicing important scientific skills and practices. Examples of activities may include:

Animal Encounter

Animal ambassadors visit the class for an up-close personal experience. Animals may or may not be “touch animals”.

Behind the Scenes Tours

Students may visit non-public areas of several designated animal exhibits. Education staff will accompany students and animal department staff will lead the tours.

Landscaping Projects

Students work alongside the zoo’s horticulture department and education staff to plant flowers, spread mulch, and/or remove brush. Physical activity may include, but is not limited to, planting, weeding, clipping, raking, and mulching. No power tools will be involved but students may be asked to use sheers, clippers/loppers, spades, shovels, wheel barrows, rakes, etc.

Dissection

Students may explore the world of animals through anatomy/science biology lessons. Dissections of specimens may include the use of scalpels, tweezers, pins, etc. Activity will be conducted and supervised by education staff.
Frequently Asked Questions

What is a typical class like?
Students might:

- Tour animal exhibits throughout the zoo
- Discuss complex zoological issues
- Engage with experiments, demonstrations, stories
- Experience education animals up-close-and-personal through animal encounters
- Create arts and crafts projects
- Learn about animals hands-on, through the use of biofacts (bones, pelts, feathers, etc.) and other interactives
- Visit shows and rides (excluding Sky Safari)
- Play environmental education games and activities
- Conduct research and work on meaningful projects

Who are the instructors?
Classes are taught by our education instructors who are degreed professionals with extensive knowledge in science, conversation and animals. We also utilize Kansas City Zoo adult volunteers to assist with classes. Both instructors and volunteers have passed a background check and drug test.

What is the student/instructor ratio?
Classes may have up to 20 students enrolled. Class sizes beyond that will be split into multiple classes and have different teachers. Please ensure that your student’s medical forms are accurate during your registration including any special behavioral or learning needs.

Can parents or siblings stay in the classroom with students?
While certainly not required, parents are allowed in the classroom and may either sit quietly around the perimeter of the room, or participate with their student if they feel that additional assistance is necessary for their student to achieve success. Space is limited so no siblings please.

Not staying in the classroom but remaining on Zoo grounds?
Feel free to hang out in our climate-controlled lobby and public space in the Deramus Building (across from education). Or feel free to enter the Zoo and visit our animals.