

Birthday Party FAQ

How many parties do you hold in each time slot?

During peak season, we can hold 4 parties at a time. During the off-season, we can hold 3 parties at a time. It is a shared space, but your space is designated for your party with no spillover from other parties.

Since it is a shared space, how can I get the entire space to myself?

Book multiple packages! During peak season, if you book 4 party packages, you will be the only party during that time slot. During the off-season, it would require 3 packages to block off the entire space.

What if the weather forecast looks bad for the day of my party?

Birthday parties are held rain or shine. However, the zoo does reserve the right to postpone any party in the event of inclement weather or hazardous conditions.

Some of my guests are zoo members. Do I need to include them in my headcount?

Yes, anyone attending the party except for children ages 2 and under must be included in the count.

I have parents attending my party that aren't eating and are just chaperoning their children. Do they get in for free?

There is no free admission for party guests. All party guests are included in the tally of your party package. Adults not attending the party but who wish to come into the zoo can pay zoo admission at the door.

What if I have more than 24 guests coming to my party?

Additional guests may be added to your party for a fee of \$19.95 per person (maximum of 11 additional guests). Keep in mind that children ages 2 and under do not count toward your total head count.

Can I bring my own food to the party?

The zoo does not allow guests to bring food or allow outside catering for birthday parties. The zoo will work with you if you'd like to select an alternate menu from the standard one that that's available for party packages.

Do you decorate the party spaces?

The zoo does not provide any decorations outside of themed paper products for food service. Guests are welcome to bring their own decorations. However, the zoo does not permit the use of balloons or confetti as they pose a choking risk to the animals.

Do parents need to attend the party?

Yes. At least 2 chaperones age 21+ need to be present during the party. Whether each child's parent attends is up to you. However, keep in mind that all attendees will count toward the head count.

For additional questions not mentioned above, please contact our birthday specialists at birthdays@elmwoodparkzoo.org!