



ELMWOOD PARK  
**ZOO**

 **VEITC**  
*Approved*  
**PROGRAMS**





## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

### History

For 100 years Elmwood Park Zoo has entertained and educated millions! Founded in 1924, the Zoo started with a small collection of animals and 16 acres of land. Norristown Zoological Society DBA Elmwood Park Zoo is a non-profit organization, 501(c)(3) Tax ID 23-1970067.

### Visitors

Open year-round, Elmwood Park Zoo engages nearly 1MM visitors a year from across the Five-County Region; and with our animals able to be universally understood and appreciated, our guests represent a broad socio-economic, racial, and ethnic diversity.

### Programming For All

Striving to become an educational facility where all students, regardless of age, ability or wealth, can congregate to learn about the amazing creatures of this planet, Elmwood Park Zoo has made great strides to becoming a more inclusive facility. From facility improvements for those with sensory sensitivities and special learning needs, to programs for blind and visually impaired students, to Title-1 campaigns for economically disadvantaged students, Elmwood Park Zoo is proud of the recent improvements that make our facility more accessible for all who want to learn.

## DEMOGRAPHICS & REACH

### SOCIAL MEDIA



Website: 1,050,144 views/year



ZMail: 46,104 subscribers

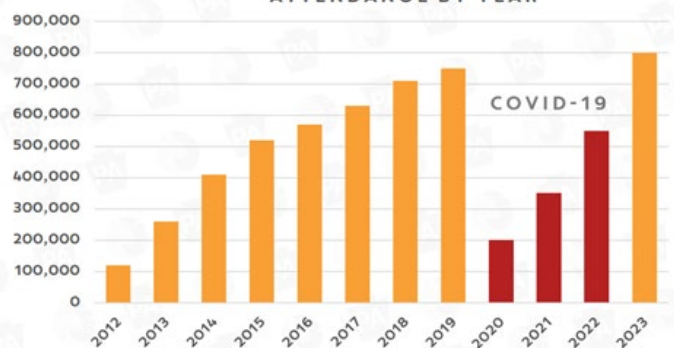


Facebook: 96,000 followers



Instagram: 29,000 followers

### ATTENDANCE BY YEAR



ACCREDITED BY THE  
**ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS**





## A TRUE EDUCATIONAL PARTNER

Inspiring through engaging with multi-sensory programs led by live animal ambassadors, for decades the zoo has benefited the students of Pennsylvania. Both programs held at the zoo and in classrooms feature talented education staff who provide incredible educational journeys to which no textbook could ever compare.

### Elmwood Park Zoo's EITC Programs follow PA State Standards:

#### **3.1: Life Science:**

3.1.1.A; 3.1.4.A; 3.1.1.B; 3.1.3.A; 3.1.6-8.D; 3.1.6-8.E; 3.1.K.A; 3.1.4.B; 3.1.5.B; 3.1.3.B; 3.1.1.C; 3.1.3.D; 3.1.3.F; 3.1.3.G; 3.1.2.C; and 3.1.3.H

#### **3.3: Earth and Space Science**

3.3.1.B; 3.3.K.A; 3.3.3.B; 3.3.K.B; 3.3.K.C; and 3.3.K.E

#### **3.4: Environmental Literacy & Sustainability**

3.4.3-5.A; 3.4.K-2.B; 3.4.6-8.C; 3.4.9-12.C; and 3.4.K-2.C

#### **3.5: Technology & Engineering**

3.5.K-2.D; and 3.5.K-2.BB

### and Common Core Standards:

1.1 - Foundational Skills gaining working knowledge of concepts

1.2 - Reading Informational Text: Students read, understand, and respond to informational text – with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence

1.3 - Reading Literature: Students read and respond to works of literature - with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence

*By pairing educational materials with animal ambassadors — our skilled professors who live, eat, and breathe what they teach — the zoo is able to provide tens of thousands with unforgettable lessons every year.*



# EITC APPROVED

## ONSITE & ZOO ON WHEELS PROGRAMS

### ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

In this program, students learn animals have different behaviors and traits to help them survive; these are called adaptations.

Objectives: PreK - 1st:

Students will understand that an adaptation is a feature or behavior that an animal has developed to help it survive.

Students will understand that many animals have adaptations that are specific to their habitat or home.

Students will be able to identify some examples of animal adaptations.

2nd Grade +:

Students will understand that an adaptation is a feature or behavior that an animal has developed to help it survive.

Students will understand that many animals have adaptations that are specific to their habitat.

Students will understand that adaptations can be both behavioral and physical.

Students will be able to identify some examples of animal adaptations.



*Elmwood Park Zoo animal ambassadors steal the show during onsite education programs.*

### SENSATIONAL ANIMALS

In this program, students learn about their five senses and explore the differences and similarities in how they are used by animals to survive.

Objectives: Students will understand that humans have five senses and will understand that both humans and animals use their senses to explore and learn about their surroundings.

Students will understand that some animals have specialized senses that humans do not have.



### WHOSE HABITAT IS THAT?

In this program, students will learn about different animal homes and the components of a habitat: food, water, shelter, and space. They will explore the characteristics of different habitats through pictures, live animal encounters and the exploration of biofacts.

Objectives: Students will understand that a habitat is an animal's home and has four major components: food, water, shelter and space.

Students will understand that many animals have specific adaptations to help them survive and will understand some of the characteristics of major habitats found around the world, such as desert, rainforest, and their own backyard.

## ON THE BRINK

In this program, students will explore the different challenges animals face around the world, and what it means for an animal to be threatened or endangered. They will learn how they can help protect and conserve animals.

**Objectives:** Students will understand that animals face many threats to their survival, often caused by human activity.

Students will understand the terms threatened, endangered, and extinct and will understand that zoos and other organizations are working towards protecting and conserving animals in the wild.



## SORTING SPECIES

In this program, students will learn that animals are classified into different groups based on their major features. They will explore the differences between types of vertebrates such as reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds through live animal encounters and the exploration of biofacts.

**Objectives:** Students will understand that animals can be classified into different groups based on their features and that animals are characterized as either having a backbone, (vertebrates) or lacking one (invertebrates).

Students will understand some of the characteristics of the different vertebrate groups.

## TOUCH TOURS

Working with Overbrook School for the Blind, Elmwood Park Zoo proudly hosts its "Touch Tours" program, using touch, sounds, and smells to teach students with visual and auditory impairments.

**Objective:** To enrich students' understanding of animal physical features, habitats and adaptations. To provide a sensory, tactile and motor experience for students with a variety of learning styles and needs that encourages exploration and understanding of the natural world.



*An Elmwood Park Zoo educator helps a student with visual impairments feed a sun conure during a Touch Tours program.*





## CONTACT

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