



Community Access Program

FAQ

1. What is the Community Access Program
2. Eligibility
3. Schools, Individuals and Others
4. Planning your visit
5. Private Events

1. What is the Community Access Program?

Woodland Park Zoo's Community Access Program (CAP) partners with hundreds of human service organizations who offer their clients or members up to 100,000 complimentary passes each year. These agencies serve low-income and/or at-risk children and adults or other demonstrated under resourced groups. The Community Access Program does not directly serve individuals or families. The organizations we work with determine how best to distribute passes—and enable their clients to enjoy a day at the zoo.

The goal of CAP is to make visiting the zoo accessible to all members of our community, despite financial or social obstacles. The zoo welcomes all who wish to connect to nature, learn more about animal conservation and take part in maintaining a sustainable Northwest.

2. Eligibility

Does my organization qualify as a Community Access Program partner?

If your organization meets all or most of the criteria below, you may qualify as a partner.

- Must be a nonprofit with verifiable 501(c)(3) status OR a Washington state or local government entity OR a Washington indigenous community organization
- Able to provide federal tax id number
- Promotes local community access initiatives to its participants. Can describe how the tickets will be used with constituents to advance the organization's service mission and show that visiting the zoo directly enhances or supports its mission
- Must have programs that specifically serve low-income and/or at-risk children and adults or other demonstrated under resourced groups
- Shares social good, educational or conservation values
- Agrees not to use tickets as program or event participation incentives, auction or raffle items, prizes or other uses that fall outside the stated CAP mission
- Has a website and mission statement that match the standards above

How do I apply?

Woodland Park Zoo invites nonprofit organizations to apply to become CAP partners in November of each year. Applications are also accepted on a rolling basis, but preference will be given to those who apply at the beginning of the year, meet the requirements above and can illustrate measureable benefits for their clients.

If you are interested in applying for individual tickets, please complete the application form on zoo.org/community

3. Schools, Individuals and Other Groups

Schools and Educational Groups

Thanks to the passage of the King County Parks Levy in 2013, free zoo admission and subsidized bus transportation are available to all King County (including Seattle School District) schools (PreK-12, including Head Start and ECEAP) with a minimum of 30% of their students receiving free or reduced-rate meals or a comparable level of scholarship. If your school qualifies, we will automatically register you for a School-to-Zoo funded visit when we receive your registration form.

More information on zoo field trips here <http://www.zoo.org/fieldtrips>

Group leaders at a youth group, church or private club who would like to lead an educational trip to the zoo can apply for the education rate: <http://www.zoo.org/fieldtrips>

Church or youth groups

To qualify for CAP, faith-based organizations should demonstrate a secular community function that provides social services to low-income or at-risk community members regardless of religious affiliation without promoting belief in a particular faith. Faith-based organizations without secular community services for underserved audiences are not eligible for CAP.

Faith-based groups that are not eligible for CAP but are visiting for educational purposes may qualify for our education rate.

Private daycares

We get many requests from private daycares that are not 501(c)(3) and do not meet the requirements of CAP. If your daycare center is part of ECEAP, Head Start or City of Seattle Child Care Assistance Programs, you may be eligible for assistance. We do not serve private daycares that are not 501c3. Please see questions 2 to determine which application process applies to you.

Low-income housing or Seattle Housing Authority

Low-income housing programs managed by the Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) are eligible to apply for CAP. SHA will distribute tickets directly to all eligible locations. Please contact the SHA administration office if you are a SHA site requesting tickets.

Individuals

CAP serves organizations that in turn provide access for individuals. Due to the sheer volume of requests, we cannot work with individuals directly. We offer many discounts that you and your family may take advantage of, including group rates, military rates, Rainy Day discounts and more. We also have a special membership and ticket called the Explorer Pass and Discover Ticket option for foster families and families on WIC or EBT assistance. Please visit [zoo discounts](#) to learn more about these reduced admission fees and special offers.

4. Planning your visit

Where should we park? Is parking free?

Parking is not covered with your CAP tickets or voucher. If you are coming in a large van or bus, you'll find the south parking lot off N. 50th (Hippo Lot) helpful for large vehicles. You are responsible for any [parking fees](#) accrued by your group.

ADA accessible parking spaces are available at each of the zoo's [parking lots](#). An official state-issued disabled parking permit must be visible on your vehicle. Vehicles with a valid ADA parking permit do NOT need to pay for parking.

Caregiver entry

If you need assistance, your caregiver may accompany you into the zoo free of charge.

Accessibility

Non-electric wheelchairs and personal electric carts are [available to rent for a fee](#).

Accessible restrooms and drinking fountains are located throughout the zoo grounds.

[Download the Accessibility Brochure](#) for a map with details of conditions and amenities around the grounds.

Service Animals

For the health and safety of the zoo's animals and guests, no pets, except for service animals, are allowed on zoo grounds.

[Service Animal Guidelines](#).

Language Guides

Spanish and Chinese language [maps are available](#) to download and print before you visit.

Zoo maps

If you'd like to see a map, [click here](#).

5. Special Events

Hosting a special event, party or celebration at the zoo for participants using CAP tickets.

No space rentals or activity add-ons are permitted for groups using CAP tickets for their admission fees (does not apply to public feedings / Willawong station if guests pay for their own public activity at the activity location.)

Renting a zoo space for a group party

If your organization is interested in a venue rental, we will gladly offer a 10% non-profit discount on the venue only (does not apply to equipment or activities) as well as the appropriate admission discount based on your guest count. You will not be permitted to use CAP tickets when renting a venue.

If you have any questions about these or other programs, please contact zooinfo@zoo.org