



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Riverside Discovery Center's (RDC) education system is to provide a fun educational experience and outreach to the community. Educational messages are conservation-based and focus on a variety of topics ranging from different groups of animals to ecosystems and adaptations featured by different types of animals.

ESU 13 PROGRAMS

- ✦ **ZooQuest**
- ✦ **Sensory Safari**

ON-SITE EDUCATION

Riverside offers a wide variety of on-site educational experiences including the following:

- ✦ **Interpretive signage** at each exhibit aimed to assist guests in learning brief but important facts about each animal.
- ✦ **Interactive education** where the zoo provides educational tools which allow guests to relate to animals.
- ✦ **Guided tours** led by a well-trained staff member or volunteer which may include portions of the zoo, specific animals, or a "zoo trek" which covers every exhibit. Each guided tour lasts approximately 2 hours and must be scheduled in advance. Cost of a guided tour is **\$30.00**.
- ✦ **Classroom programs** for those who visit the zoo and wish to have a more formal learning session. Programs are hands on; include one or more live education animal, bio facts and other learning tools. Each program covers a specific topic or objective and includes state standards for a variety of topics in science, math, reading, and more. **\$25.00 for each program and \$20 for each additional program on the same day.**

PROGRAM TOPICS

- ✦ **Wild Tales (Pre K-1st)** – reading an age appropriate animal tale with an activity/craft.
- ✦ **Body Coverings (K-5th)** – program that teaches about body coverings on animals such as skin, fur, armor, horns, and antlers.
- ✦ **Fantastic Feet (K-5th)** – this program helps children understand the importance of an animal's feet and how they help the animal survive.
- ✦ **Amazing Amphibians vs Remarkable Reptiles (2-5th)** – compares and contrasts reptiles and amphibians.
- ✦ **The Word on Birds (K-5th)** – children see and interact with bird bio facts and meet a bird face-to-face.

- ✦ **Hats Off to Bats (K-12th)** – explains and dispels the myths about bats and covers many of their adaptations.
- ✦ **Invertebrate...Heard of It? (3-5th)** – this program goes into detail about arthropods such as insects and spiders.
- ✦ **Mammal Mania (K-5th)** – this program discusses the many remarkable qualities of mammals.
- ✦ **Homes and Habitats (K-5th)** – this program helps children learn about different habitats and what animals need to survive.
- ✦ **Tales of Scales (K-5th)** – this program covers many different kinds of reptiles with hands-on experiences and bio facts.
- ✦ **The Rockin’ Rainforest (3-8th)** - this program discuss the amazing world of the rainforest and why they are important.
- ✦ **Wonderful Wetlands (3-8th)** - this program discuss animals that call wetlands home and why they are important to our ecosystems.
- ✦ **Our Prairie Home (3-8th)** - this program will discuss animals that call prairie homes and how they adapt with little water.
- ✦ **Cargo for Conservation (6-12th)** – this program will discuss why different animals are endangered and why, the wildlife trade and its impact on the environment.
- ✦ **Art Safari (3-12th)** – journey the world of imaginative art. Touch fur from a mammal, feel the texture of a reptiles scales, observe bird feathers and see how the colors collide.
- ✦ **Animal Enrichment Student Research Program (8th-12th)** - this program students will research an RDC animal, create enrichment, and observe the animal at the zoo with the enrichment through an ethogram. *this program is half in classroom and half at the zoo*

Cost of an on-site program is \$25 per program + group admission to the zoo:

- ✦ Senior (65+) \$4.50
- ✦ Adult (13-64) \$5.50
- ✦ Child (5-12) \$3.50
- ✦ Toddler (2-4) \$1.75

Any additional on-site program scheduled on the same day is \$20 per program.

OFF-SITE EDUCATION

Zoo staff and volunteers travel off zoo grounds to local and as far as 90 miles away to provide classroom programs for students and other organizations upon request. Cost for an off-site program is \$50 per Educational Program/Animal Visit. Book 6 or more off site programs and you will receive one for free.

*Please note for travel anywhere outside of Scottsbluff/Gering we do charge \$0.50 per mile to cover fuel costs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Join RDC August 17-21 for a once in a lifetime experience, educational activity and how animals react during the solar eclipse. August 21 gates open at 9am. Eclipse partial phase starts at 10:25:50am and is in full effect at 11:48:11am.

To schedule a program contact Alexandra Henwood, Education Curator, at 308-630-6236 or email at education@riversidediscoverycenter.org.