

# Get Ready for a Backstage Adventure!

Chicago Zoological Society | Brookfield Zoo

## Great Ape Escape

Being an animal care specialist takes careful preparation. Here are some things you need to know so that you can be prepared to work side by side with your Great Ape Escape zoo crew:

Participants must be in relatively good physical condition. It is important that you are able to go up and down stairways at a moderate pace and are able to kneel for up to 15 minutes at a time. You cannot participate in this program if you are pregnant.

Because of our close biological relationship with primates, many illnesses like colds and flus can be transmitted between humans and primates. We ask that you do not participate in the program if you have cold/flu/fever or other respiratory ailments at the time of the program. Please contact us prior to your program at 708-688-8430 or send us an e-mail at [backstageadventures@czs.org](mailto:backstageadventures@czs.org) in order to reschedule in the event that you are ill.

Communication between you and the host staff is crucial. You must be able to read, speak, and understand English without the use of an interpreter. If you are unable to participate in the program without an interpreter, please call (708) 688-8338.

You must be attentive. Although our gorillas are comfortable working with their human caregivers, they are still wild animals and their behavior is unpredictable. It is important that you pay close attention to the guidance and instructions of the care specialist you are spending the morning with. Never enter any animal area without direction from staff. Always wait for instructions and authorization from the animal care specialist before approaching any of the animals while participating in observation, care and enrichment, and feeding sessions.

All participants are required to complete a signed liability waiver (page 4).

Read on for Frequently Asked Questions, a map, and your waiver.



**Western Lowland Gorilla**

## Accessibility

Not all of our programs are fully accessible, but at Brookfield Zoo we value the diversity of our guests and strive to facilitate the best connections with wildlife and nature possible. If you require any accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the Customer Service Representative at 708-688-8430 Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or send us an e-mail at [backstageadventures@czs.org](mailto:backstageadventures@czs.org).

# Frequently Asked Questions

These are some of the most commonly asked questions we get from our guests. If you think of something else or need clarification on anything in this packet, please don't hesitate to call the Education department at 708-688-8430 or send us an e-mail at [backstageadventures@czs.org](mailto:backstageadventures@czs.org).



Western Lowland Gorilla

## Who can register for Great Ape Escape?

Adults

Youth ages 12 to 17 must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian who pays no additional fee.

## Can my family or friends watch me participate in this program?

To ensure the safety of all involved, only the registered program participants will be allowed in off-exhibit areas where the program is taking place. You may also meet friends or family elsewhere in the zoo after your program.

## What should I wear?

As part of the program, you will be indoors in warmly heated areas. Please wear long pants. There is the chance that your clothing will come in contact with water, so you may want to bring a change of clothes also. Wear comfortable closed toed shoes that can get dirty or wet; **no sandals**. You will be asked to remove all jewelry other than smooth wedding bands (no stones). Because you may be in front of the public during various sessions, we ask that you wear something presentable without holes or noticeable wear.

## Will there be a place to store my personal items?

Yes. We will provide you with a secure place to keep your personal items while you participate in your Backstage Adventures program.



## Can I take pictures during the program?

To keep the animals comfortable and to ensure the safety of all involved, we do not allow camera or cell phone use during Backstage Adventures.

## Is smoking permitted?

For the safety of animals, guests and staff, tobacco products may not be used during the program.

## Where do we meet?

A staff member will meet you at the exit of *Tropic World* building (northwest side) at the sign that reads "Your Backstage Adventure Meets Here" promptly at 9:00 a.m. If you are parking your car for the length of the program, please park at the South Gate and walk down to the *Tropic World* door. Since this is prior to zoo regular opening hours, please do not visit any other parts of the park.



**Western Lowland Gorilla**

## What if I'm late?

If you are more than 15 minutes late, please call Zoo Security at (708) 688-8811, explain that you are here for a Backstage Adventure and ask them to radio a Tropic World animal care specialist to let them you are you are there. If you arrive late, the length of the program cannot be extended beyond 10:15 am.

## What do I need to do with the waiver?

Please bring a signed copy of the waiver with you to the program. We cannot offer the program without a signed waiver. If you are under 18, the waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian. If you have any questions about the waiver please call prior to the program date.

## What if I need to cancel?

Any cancellations must be received seven or more calendar days in advance of the scheduled program in order to receive a refund. Registration does include a 25% non-refundable deposit. Any cancellations received six calendar days or less are not eligible for a

refund. Exceptions to the refund policy will be made on case by case basis and at the sole discretion of the Animal Programs Department.

## What if I need to reschedule?

Please follow the cancellation process outlined above. Once you have completed your cancellation, you are welcome to register for any available Backstage Adventures program. Due to limited availability, we cannot guarantee program registration.



## I have read through the waiver and have questions about whether this is the right program for my child. What should I do?

Please call (708) 688-8430 prior to registering for the program. We will do our best to answer each of your questions and to help you find a program that is a good fit for you.

## Where is the South Gate located?

On the day of your program, you must enter the Zoo at the South Gate located at 3300 Golf Road behind Riverside-Brookfield High School. Tell the gate attendant that you are here for the Backstage Adventure and show them [this packet](#) or your [registration confirmation e-mail](#). You do not need to pay parking or admission. Please park in the lot indicated on the map on the following page. Please note that the speed limit throughout the Zoo is 10 MPH and is strictly enforced.

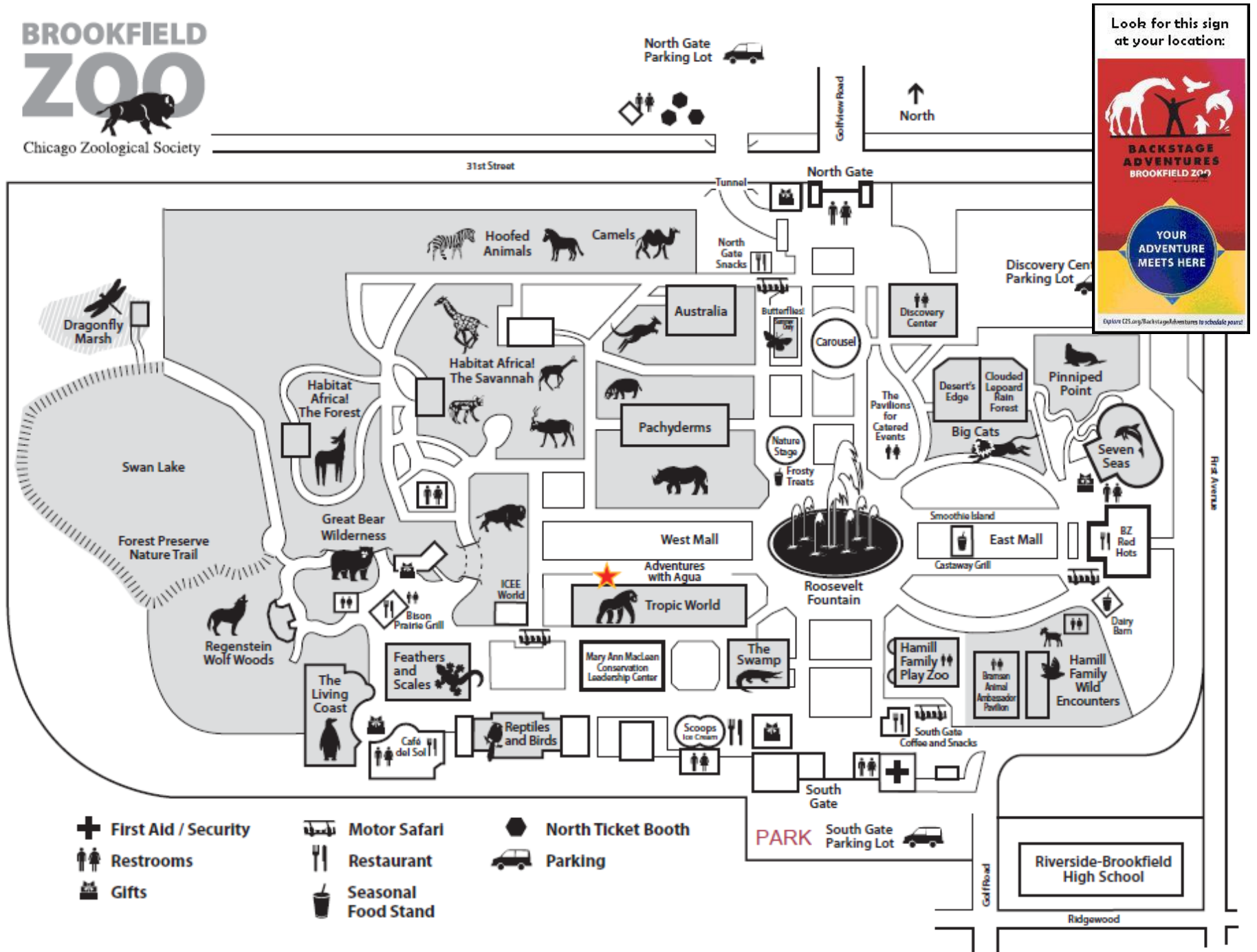
## Anything else I should know?

Please be aware that though it is rare, any Backstage Adventure can be cancelled by Brookfield Zoo at any time due to animal welfare, dangerous weather, or staff needs. If your program is cancelled, you will be contacted with as much notice as possible to schedule another date for your adventure.

Because of our close biological relationship with primates, many illnesses like colds and flus can be transmitted between humans and primates. We ask that you do not participate in the program if you have cold/flu/fever or other respiratory ailments at the time of the program. Please contact us prior to your program at 708-688-8430 or [backstageadventures@czs.org](mailto:backstageadventures@czs.org) in order to reschedule in the event that you are ill.

# BROOKFIELD ZOO

Chicago Zoological Society



Look for this sign at your location:

**BACKSTAGE ADVENTURES**  
BROOKFIELD ZOO

**YOUR ADVENTURE MEETS HERE**

Explore CZS.org/BackstageAdventures to schools page!

**Chicago Zoological Society**  
**Great Ape Escape Adventure Program Participant Waiver**

I understand that I will be entering animal enclosures as part of the Great Ape Escape Backstage Adventure (the "Program"). I UNDERSTAND THAT THE PROGRAM IS INHERENTLY DANGEROUS, AND I HEREBY WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS AGAINST THE CHICAGO ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY, THE BROOKFIELD ZOO AND THEIR RESPECTIVE EMPLOYEES, OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES, RELATED TO OR ARISING FROM THE PROGRAM. I consent to the use of my likeness in photographic, digital or electronic media by the Chicago Zoological Society in connection with the Program.

**I attest that I meet the following requirements for the Program:**

- I am at least 12 years of age.
- I possess the ability to read, speak and understand English without the use of an interpreter.
- I am not pregnant.
- I understand that if I am 17 years old or younger, I must have a parent or guardian report to the Program with me for an introduction and sign my liability waiver.
- I will not enter an animal area without direction from the Animal Care staff and I will wait for instructions and authorization from the Animal Care staff before attempting to touch the animals.
- If I haven't done so prior to my arrival, I will remove all jewelry (smooth wedding bands excepted) prior to going to the exhibit area. Prescription lenses worn for vision correction are acceptable.
- I will not carry a personal camera.
- I understand that if I am under the influence of alcoholic beverages or any type of controlled substance I will forfeit my right to participate in the Great Ape Escape Program.
- I attest that I am in good general health and physical condition, suitable for Program participation.
- I attest that I do not currently have cold/flu/fever or other respiratory ailments. Please contact us prior to your program at 708-688-8342 or adventuresinlearning@czs.org in order to reschedule in the event that you are ill.

I understand that the Chicago Zoological Society reserves the right to cancel the Program at any time where the best interest of the animals is concerned. I also understand that it is the animal's choice to participate in the program. I understand that I will be removed from the Program for failure to comply with the established rules and guidelines as set forth here, as established by the Chicago Zoological Society and as communicated by the Animal Care staff members.

**By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read the above rules and agree to follow them and that the foregoing is true and accurate.**

Please indicate the name and phone number of the individual who should be contacted in the case of emergency:

\_\_\_\_\_

Guest Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(If under 18 years of age, must be signed by a parent or guardian)