Birthday Party FAQs

What is included with a birthday party?

You will be provided with a party space all day until the zoo closes, some prepackaged snacks and drinks, and birthday supplies. An Akron Zoo staff member will set up the birthday party supplies before the party and tear down the birthday party supplies after the party. The party will be guest led. The price is $100 for Akron Zoo members and $120 for non-members.

What COVID-19 regulations must I follow?

As of November 2020, based on the orders of the Governor of Ohio, the local Health Department, County orders, and City orders, all guests:

- Are required to wear a mask at all times if ages 10+ (masks may only be removed while eating and drinking).
- Remain seated while in the party space (No socializing or activities in open congregate areas).
- Are allowed only one family (same household) per table.
- Are allowed no more than 10 people per table.
- Must be served at their seats if serving food and beverages. No self-serve buffets permitted.

Any regulations in place at the time of the party must be followed.

How many guests are included in the birthday party?

The party package includes admission for up to 15 people. If there are more than 15 people who attend your party, there is a fee for additional guests. The fee is $14 for additional children and $6 for additional adults for Akron Zoo Members or $16 for additional children and $8 for additional adults for non-members. There is a max of 30 people in January-April and 20 guests in May-September. Children under two, with the exception of the birthday child, are not included in the guest count but may participate in all activities.

Wristbands will be mailed to the host and it will be the responsibility of the host to hand out the wristbands to the other party guests. All guests, with the exception of children under the age of two, attending the party will need to wear
the wristbands including the birthday child and the hosts to be able to enter the zoo.

Some of my guests are Akron Zoo Members. Do they get in for free?

Akron Zoo Members are not free when attending a birthday party. Birthday parties are special events outside the everyday zoo experience. All guests will be included in your guest count. Any additional guests are $14 for children and $6 for adults for Akron Zoo Members and $16 for children and $8 for adults for Non-Members.

What is the maximum number of guests I can have for a birthday party?

15-30 guests are ideal for a birthday party. For larger parties over 30 we recommend our Group Rental Packages. More information can be found at https://www.akronzoo.org/plan-event-party or you can contact a Group Rental representative at GroupRentals@akronzoo.org or (330)375-2550 ext. 7384.

Where is the party location?

The location will be held on the Komodo Kingdom patio. The reserved area will be stanchioned off from other guests. The location will be reserved for the entire day while the zoo is open.

What are the party favors?

The birthday child receives an Akron Zoo logo drawstring bag with binoculars, notepad, pencil, and logo souvenir cup. Each child receives a notepad, pencil and logo souvenir cup. Every guest attending the party gets an Akron Zoo logo souvenir cup. These items can change anytime based on availability.

The amount of souvenirs, snacks, and tickets for the experiences will be determined by the final guest count provided no later than the Wednesday before your scheduled party. If no final guest count is provided, these amounts will be determined by the estimated guest count given at the time of booking.

Can I bring my own food?

Yes, you may bring your own food. Any food that you bring, we ask that you provide your own serving utensils that may be needed. We provide prepackaged Goldfish crackers, pretzels, cookies, and soft drinks. These items may change depending on availability. We do not provide storage for food so any items that
require heating or refrigeration are not recommended, although you may bring coolers to store your items.

When you are planning on bringing in your own food items, please keep COVID-19 regulations at the time of the party in mind. The Responsible Restart regulations for Restaurants, Bars, and Banquet & Catering Facilities/Services currently says, “Salad bars and buffets are permitted if served by staff with safe six feet social distancing between parties.” The zoo will not be providing any buffet items and will be providing prepackaged snacks, therefore, no staff will be serving any food items. If the birthday hosts decided to bring in any buffet items, it should be up to the host to safely serve food to the rest of the guests based on the guidelines.

**Do I bring cake/cupcakes/ice cream?**

You provide your own cake/cupcakes and candles for the party and any plates, utensils, knife or serving utensils for the cake/cupcakes. We do not recommend ice cream cakes because there is no freezer storage available.

**Can I bring my own decorations and what decorations does the zoo provide?**

Yes, you can bring additional decorations for your party. We provide a “Happy Birthday” sign with the birthday child’s name on it and cover the food and present tables with colored table cloths. All other tables are uncovered unless you decide to bring your own table cloths. We do not allow balloons, piñatas, or confetti for the safety of the animals and decorations that require nails or hardware, or anything on the walls. Any decorations you bring must be taken down by you or it will be discarded. Typically, the natural scenery of the zoo is sufficient.

**How do I check-in my party?**

The hosts will need to arrive between 10:00-10:45 in April-September and 11:00-11:45 in January-March. Zoo staff will show the hosts to the party location. Arriving after the 10:45 or 11:45 respectively may result in a delay of getting to your party location due to office staff needing to work at stations throughout the zoo due to a staff shortage.

The hosts will be responsible to getting the wristbands to the party guests. The hosts will be handed any extra wristbands at the time of arrival if additional guests were paid for at a time when it was too late to mail wristbands to the host
before the party. The party guests will show their wristbands to ticket counter or ticket taker staff, and the guests will be directed to head towards the party location.

**What if it rains?**

Birthday parties are held rain, shine, or snow. If you choose to cancel, the payment is non-refundable. We can reschedule based on availability.

**When do I make my final payment?**

The full payment for the package ($100 for Akron Zoo members or $120 for non-members) is required at the time of booking. If you have more than 15 guests at your party or would like to add on additional experiences, you may pay for the additional guests and experiences no later than the Wednesday before your scheduled party, the same day that your final guest count is due.

The amount of souvenirs, snacks, and tickets for the experiences will be determined by the final guest count provided no later than the Wednesday before your scheduled party. If no final guest count is provided, these amounts will be determined by the estimated guest count given at the time of booking.