Zoorific Birthday Party FAQs

How many guests are included in the birthday party?

The birthday party package includes 15 guests which may be any combination of children and adults. For Akron Zoo Members, additional children are $14 and additional adults are $6. For Non-Members, additional children are $16 and additional adults are $8. Children under two, with the exception of the birthday child, are not included in the guest count but may participate in all activities.

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?

15-35 guests are ideal for the birthday party package. For larger parties over 35 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 are the party locations?

We have three birthday party locations (located outside) including two canopy areas by the Conservation Carousel and a covered patio by Komodo Kingdom. Parties in October-April are normally held inside the Komodo Kingdom Classrooms. We select the location of your party based on your estimated guest count and preference.

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.
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 will provide serving utensils for any food we provide. We provide a vegetable tray, animal crackers, goldfish crackers and beverages. 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. If you would like to take home any leftover food, we suggest that you bring food containers to help with our mission of being "green." You can also use our containers for an additional fee.

How much food comes with the pizza and hot dog add-ons?

For $25.00 you can choose to add pizza as a lunch option for your birthday party. The pizza add-on includes two 16 inch pizzas cut into 16 slices (32 slices total). Hot dogs are $25.00 and include 15 hot dogs. The add-ons are enough to feed 15 people. You may purchase multiple food add-ons to have enough food for your party.

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. If you would like to have some ice cream for the party, we suggest taking advantage of our ice cream novelties food option.

What is an animal encounter? And can I choose a specific animal?

An animal encounter is when an education staff member will provide an up-close experience with one of our education animals. Some examples of our education animals are our Armadillo, Chinchilla, Rabbit, Guinea Pig, Lesser Tenrec, Bearded Dragon, Leopard Gecko, Uromastyx, Call Duck, various snakes, turtles and tortoises, amphibians, and invertebrates. We are not able to choose a specific animal before the party because these animals are also used for our other education programs and they are limited to how many times they can be used for each week and there are other factors that may limit their use. In order to book an animal encounter, we require at least a 2-week notice.
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. If you wish to arrive at an earlier time to set up decorations, we can allow for no earlier than 30 minutes before the start of the party. Ex. If your scheduled party time is 11:00-1:00, then you can arrive at 10:30 to set up, however, we need to be notified at least a few days before your party of your early arrival so we can ensure that a staff member will be available to meet with you to take you to your party location.

What is the timeline of my party?

Timelines vary depending on what additional experiences you add to your party. Approximately half of your party is designated to snacks, singing happy birthday, cake, passing out favors and opening presents at your party location. For the remainder of your party your Fun Squad Member will escort you on grounds to view your child’s favorite animal exhibit/s and any additional experiences you choose. Your fun squad member will keep your party timeline organized so you are free to enjoy your child’s birthday.

What if it rains?

Birthday parties are held rain or shine. If you choose to cancel, the $50 deposit is non-refundable. We can reschedule based on availability.

Can I pay for additional time to make my party longer?

No, we are not able to add additional time to the birthday parties or move the start and end time. Our birthday party times are scheduled only during our regular operating hours with just enough time available for set-up before the party and tear-down after the party. The times for a Summer Birthday Party (April-September and non-Boo at the Zoo dates in October) are either 11:00-1:00 or 2:30-4:30. The time for a Winter Party (Non-Wild Lights dates in November, non-Wild Lights dates in December, and January-March) is 12:00-2:00. Some of our
party locations are also used for education programs and adding time or changing times could interfere with those programs. Boo at the Zoo and Wild Light birthday parties are available and have their own party times. For more information, please go to: https://www.akronzoo.org/birthday-party.

My Fun Squad Member did a really good job hosting my party. Can I tip them?

No, the Akron Zoological Park has a policy stating that our staff members are not allowed to accept tips. If you feel that your Fun Squad Member did a really good job, you can mention it on a comment card, mention it on the birthday satisfaction survey, or you can donate the money that would have been a tip to our Annual Animal Fund, which goes directly to helping our animals.

When do I make my final payment?

A $50 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of booking, but the rest of your payment will be done at the end of the party. The deposit paid will be applied to your overall total. Your final total will be dependent upon the food and activities you are signed up for and the actual number of guests who attend your party. The payment will be collected in one lump sum. If you would like guests to pay for themselves, then it will be your responsibility to collect the payment from that guest and not the zoo’s responsibility.