

EXPLORE THE VIRGINIA ZOO

3500 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA 23504
 Visit virginiazoo.org or call 757-441-2374 for current admission rates.



Please do not feed or harass the animals. Due to the ever-changing nature of a zoo, exhibits may have been modified since these requirements were written. Please ask a zoo employee if you are having trouble finding something.

Guidelines: Visit the Virginia Zoo. Complete the number of activities for your grade level based on this grid.

	DISCOVER	CONNECT	TAKE ACTION	ANY ACTIVITY UNDER ANY KEY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0	3
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2	5
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3	6
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5	8

Read the rules board outside the zoo entrance. Check for any special events happening today, which would be posted at the admissions window or in the zoo plaza and pick up a map on your way in.

DISCOVER

- Go to a scheduled keeper chat and talk with a VA zookeeper. Check the white signboard inside the zoo entrance for scheduled times (seasonal). Name one thing you learned from the zookeeper.
- Check out a Zoo Live! Stage show (seasonal) and chat with the staff presenting the animals. Name one thing you learned about the animals presented.
- Zoo staff and volunteers have many different tasks and duties that they do at the zoo. Find three zoo employees or volunteers, and ask them what department they work for and what they do. Then, fill in the chart below.

	Zoo Staff/Volunteer 1	Zoo Staff/Volunteer 2	Zoo Staff/Volunteer 3	Zoo Staff/Volunteer 4
Department				
Job				

- Name a local animal living at the Virginia Zoo that you might find here in your backyard (native to Virginia)!
- Throughout the zoo, you might notice different kinds of animals living together in the same exhibit. This is called a multi-species exhibit and can be found in multiple places throughout the zoo. Find one and list the animals living in the multi-species exhibit.
- As you explore the zoo, see if you can spot the “SSP” symbol on certain animal exhibit signs. What does this symbol mean? What animals did you find at the zoo with this symbol?
- Enrichment is very important at the Virginia Zoo, which helps encourage and stimulate an animal’s natural behavior. Find examples of enrichment in an animal’s enclosure. Compare it to another animal’s enrichment. How does it differ? What do you do for enrichment?
- A habitat is where an animal lives. Some animals live in forests, some live in wetlands, some live in grasslands. Find at least two habitats that the zoo represents.
- The Virginia Zoo has several special garden areas. Find and explore at least one of these. (African village garden, color garden, butterfly garden, rose garden, etc.) What did you like best about the area you selected?

Connect

- What are five animals in the Okavango Delta area (Africa)?
- What are five animals that live in the Trail of the Tiger area (Asia)?
- Many animals at the Virginia Zoo are threatened or endangered in their native habitats. Name two threats/reasons these animals might be threatened or endangered.
- The Virginia Zoological Park is committed to saving and protecting the world’s wildlife by inspiring a passion for nature and taking conservation action at home and around the world.
- Learn about a conservation project the zoo is involved with and write one thing you learned.

Take Action

- Share with your parents, troop or group three interesting facts you have learned while at the Virginia Zoo. Create a poster, brochure or video to encourage others to visit too.
- With a parent’s permission, explore a website related to animal conservation. Association of Zoos and Aquariums (www.aza.org), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (www.cites.org), or a website on your favorite endangered animal.
- What do you think an animal in a zoo needs in its habitat? Does it need shelter? Does it have food and water? What about something to do so it does not get bored? Visit other zoo’s websites or www.zoolex.org for more on designing habitats, then take what you have learned about animal enclosures, design, and draw what you think would be a perfect enclosure for your favorite animal. Will it have enough space? How will it get its food and water? What sort of barrier will its enclosure have? Share your drawing with your family, troop or group and explain why you designed it the way you did.
- Talk to your family about planting native plants at your house. What plants will you include and why?
- Find some ways you can help the wildlife in your area. Take part in an environmental cleanup or other similar program.
- Find out about the Zoo Crew and Conservation Youth Team programs. When you are old enough, you can come and volunteer at the Virginia Zoo!