

Education Outreach Program List

Below are listed the Niabi Zoo2U Program titles. Each can be presented individually or can be combined in a **Curriculum Series** (6, 8, 10 weeks). We also present customized programs for Schools, Libraries, Community Events, Senior Centers, Scouts, Birthday Parties, Universities, Corporate Events, and Interactive Trail Hikes.

Programs for All Ages

Wild About Animals

For those that want to see some amazing animals, do interactive activities and have some fun while learning, this is the program for you! You can choose animals you want to see from our list or we can choose based on the age range of participants. This is our most popular program for birthdays and private functions.



Seasonal Programs

Whether it is a community festival, organizational event, or just a celebration of the season, Niabi Zoo2U customizes its seasonal programs to focus on how animals survive during the different times of the year.

Seasonal programs include **Spring Awakening**, **Surviving Summer**, **Fall Frenzy**, and **Winter Wonders**.

- 🐾 **Spring Awakening** – As the land awakens from its winter slumber, plants begin to bloom and animals become more active as they search for food, shelter and mates. Wake up and find a friend to join you at this eye opening experience.
- 🐾 **Surviving Summer** – In the heat of the summer, survival can be challenging for many animals as they deal with difficult conditions such as increased temperatures and protected resources such as water and territory. Find out how animals stay cool and see if they have what it takes to be a survivor.
- 🐾 **Fall Frenzy** – With winter coming, animals go into a frenzy to stock up on food by hiding it or eating it to build a layer of fat. They begin to prepare shelters to stay warm in winter or prepare to leave for greener pastures where it is less likely to be cold and more likely to have more resources to survive the coming winter. Join the frenzy to make preparations for this wild program!
- 🐾 **Winter Wonders** – Have you ever wondered how animals survive the harsh weather of winter? Food is scarce as plants have gone dormant. Water is frozen as snow and ice. Warm shelter is limited or occupied by other animals. Explore the many unique ways animals have developed to survive from hibernation, migration, or just toughing it out through the chilling cold of winter.

Have No Fear Animal Program (a.k.a. Halloween Spooktacular)

Creepy, crawly, slimy, slithering, flapping, hissing, scary animals! Many people have fears of certain types of animals that are often the result of misinformation from movies, stories, and legends. Niabi Zoo2U presents these types of animals in a different light as we debunk the myths surrounding these spooky critters in a fun and interactive way that help people overcome their fears.

Niabi Art Programs –A wildlife artist will teach how to recreate the beauty of nature through art. *(Pricing based on number of participants and materials needed)*



Sketch-A-Critter – Meet and interact with animals while learning how to draw them! This program can be modified for the skill level of participants. For a little extra, participants can go home with their own animal sketch book!

The Art of Nature – Nature provides the palette as you learn to create beautiful arrangements that are more than centerpieces, they are works of art.



Critter Chats - These programs provide one-on-one interaction with animals in a larger group setting such as festivals, community events, and anywhere a passive interaction program is desired. While less formal than our presentation style programs, the table/tent based Critter Chat can reach a wide audience over longer periods of time from a single to multiple hours. The service fee is based on the length of time for the Critter Chat (1 hour, 2 hours, or longer) and can accommodate a large flowing audience.



Interactive Nature Hikes – Get in to Nature, literally! These hikes take participants in groups of up to 25 into the woods, led by a Zoologist/Naturalist, to explore nature first hand and along the way, **meet the creatures of the forest**. Live animals will be presented in their actual habitat by our professionally trained animal handlers. Learn how Nature can be used as therapy as participants are connected to animals and Nature. The service fee is based on the number of participants and the amount of interaction desired. Embrace Nature and get in to it!

Special Needs Programs – These programs are geared toward children with special needs of all ages and cognitive ability in a classroom, camp, or any other group setting. Each is modified depending on the level of need.



Critter Connection – Focusing on engaging the senses of sight, sound, smell, and touch, participants can interact with a colorful parrot, a huffing hedgehog, the blue-tongued skink, and a super soft chinchilla.

Age Specific Programs

Zoo Time! (Age 3-5)

In this highly interactive program, children will get to bend like a ferret during ferret flexibility, slither like a lizard, open their mouth as wide as a snake, and be a tree with a parrot. This 30 minute program is geared toward younger ages with shorter attention spans. While shorter in length, it is still long enough to learn and have a heap of fun!

Animal Tales (Ages 3-5) – Children’s Literacy Program

With a variety of animal stories to choose from, these 30 min. programs feature live animals represented in or related to a story that is read to the children. This includes a storybook reading, a hands-on animal encounter, and a coloring page of a featured animal. See our booklist for a complete listing of Animal Tales.



Coat of Many Colors (Ages 3-5)

Animals wear many different coats with many different colors, those that help some blend in, those that help some stand out, and those that tell others to stay away. Learn the animal stories and how important a coat of many colors can be.

Creatures of the Night (Ages 3-5, 6-9)

What is a nocturnal animal? Why would an animal want to come out at night instead of during the day? How do animals get around, hunt, or protect themselves at night? Learn the answers to these questions while interacting with real creatures of the night.

Ocean Adventure (Ages 3-5, 6-9, 10-13)

The creatures of the sea have bizarre shapes and forms. Through the use of preserved specimens, participants can interact with sea horses, coral, sea stars, shark teeth, a squid beak, an eel skull and more! *Note – no live animals are used in this program. We are directly connected to the oceans by the Mississippi River. Learn about our impact on the oceans and how we can help protect the world’s most precious natural resource.

Where the Wild Things Are (Ages 6-9, 10-13)

Just by seeing how an animal looks will tell much about the wild environment where it lives. Learn how and where animals make their homes and the adaptations that help them survive in their natural habitats.

Animal Superpowers (Ages 6-9, 10-13)

Superheroes often have powers that originated with animals: flight, speed, flexibility, heat vision and more. See the strange, amazing ways that animals have physically adapted to their environment to find food, protect themselves, hunt, and to attract a mate. After this program, you are sure to know that superpowers do exist!

Offense vs. Defense (Ages 6-9, 10-13)

Sports teams have squads for both offense and defense. Some animals are equipped for offensive attack while others are equipped to make a defensive stand. Find out the fascinating physical and behavioral ways animals survive in this epic game.

What's for Dinner? (Ages 6-9, 10-13)

Eat or be eaten, that is the question. Find out what our Zoo animals eat, how they eat it, and who eats who by looking at a variety of teeth, food, and the mouths they go in.

Night Crawlers (Ages 6-9, 10-13) These crawling critters have been around for 500 million years, more than twice as long as dinosaurs! With their armored exoskeleton, insects and arachnids have unique ways to protect themselves, hunt for prey, and break down dead things! Participants will meet Hissing Cockroaches, and Mealworms, as well as insect eaters such as Tarantulas, Geckos, and a Hedgehog.

Dinosaurs Alive (Ages 6-9, 10-13, 14-18)

Look at the change in dinosaurs through time resulting in today's modern birds. Learn about reptiles from the age of dinosaurs (turtles and crocodilians) that survived the mass extinction 65 million years ago. Examine dinosaur fossils, bird and reptile artifacts as well as live birds and reptiles to see that dinosaurs are still with us today!

Going Native (Ages 6-9, 10-13, 14-18)

Learn about the wild animals in your own back yard! The changing face of the landscape by humans has reduced population sizes and species diversity. Find out what you can do to help! Explore animal artifacts and meet native species such as a hawk, owl, skunk, opossum, snakes, or lizards.

Nature's Soundtrack (Ages 6-9, 10-13, 14-18)

What kind of sounds do animals make? Why do they make them? Nature's Soundtrack helps to answer these questions by bringing recorded sounds of the animals that people are not likely to hear. The sounds of the animal kingdom mean many things and hearing them while meeting the animal that makes them broadcasts a whole new level of understanding about the musical side of nature.

The Race is On! (Ages 6-9, 10-13, 14-18)

How fast can animals move? Which is fastest? Which is slowest? Is faster better? What's the benefit to speed? What is the downside? Find out the answers to these questions and more as we discover how active an animal needs to be to get food or escape predators.

Biomes (Ages 10-13, 14-18)

Discover how our planet is a living system in which the biomes are all connected. Explore Oceans, Mountains, Rainforests, Deserts, Grasslands and Temperate Forests. Learn about the different regions of the world and what types of animals live there.

Endangered Spaces = Endangered Species (Ages 10-13, 14-18)

Learn how animals that are threatened with extinction often have the most change to their natural environment, from meteors to motor vehicles. Learn what the zoo is doing and how you can help save animals from extinction.

Careers with Animals (Ages 10-13, 14-18)

So, you want to work with animals? Find out how about the wide variety of careers available and how to get there. Learn about education requirements (from high school to college and beyond), experience needed and how to get it, the pay scale, as well as the time, commitment, and dedication needed to have a career with animals.

The Domestication Story (Ages 10-13, 14-18)

How is it that predators such as wolves and wildcats came to live in our houses? How did we get animals off of the mountains and out of the jungle to live in our backyard pens so we can milk them, use their eggs, and even eat them? Thousands of years of selective breeding have brought humans great companionship (dogs, cats, ferrets, etc.) nourishment (cows, goats, chickens, etc.), and literally the clothes on our backs (sheep, cattle, etc.). Find out the rest of the story in this eye opening, historically accurate tale spanning 40,000 years.

Species Conservation (Age 14-18, Adult)

See how it takes the collaboration of many people from zoos/conservation organizations, government agencies, and the general public to save a species from extinction. The success story of the Bald Eagle and the current work on the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Programs will be featured.

Saving our Oceans (Age 14-18, Adult)

The world's oceans are in peril. Climate change, acidification, oil spills, plastic garbage patches, algal blooms, dead zones, overfishing, and the death of the coral reefs are the greatest threats to the oceans. What can be done to save our oceans? Can you help the oceans from your own home and school? The answer is YES! Find out how in this eye opening program.

Zoo Vet (Age 14-18, Adult)

A human doctor cares for just 1 species. Most veterinarians care for 2-4 species at the most. A Zoo Vet has to care for over 100 species of different animals! Our educators will share the ups and downs of being a Zoo Vet and the many challenges of providing medical care for endangered leopards, uncooperative eagles, and more!
*Note – images of animal medical conditions may be used and can be graphic in nature.

Comparative Behavior & Anatomy (Adult)

See the relation between animal behavior and anatomical structures in pets vs. their wild counterparts to better understand why pets behave the way they do.

Connecting with Nature, Inside and Out (Adult)

In this age of technology and electronic devices (called the e-generation), children are spending less and less time outside. With diagnoses of ADHD on the rise, children (and adults) are suffering from Biophobia and Nature Deficit Disorder. Learn how to deal with these issues at school and at home in this lively developmental workshop.