

Zoo Lights Social Story

Denver Zoo





Zoo Lights is a special nighttime event at Denver Zoo. During Zoo Lights, there are lights, sounds, and decorations throughout the Zoo. Some lights blink, some are shaped like animals, and some flash.



When you get to Denver Zoo you may need to park the car. Some parking is inside a garage and some is outside. There will be music and lights when you park.



The first thing you will do is walk to the entrance and wait in line to get in. It may be crowded. Stick close to someone you feel safe with. You can stop in the Guest Services building to pick up a kit with headphones, sunglasses and fidget toys. We hope these things will help you have a calm and happy experience.



As you walk there will be lights all around. If you don't like the lights or sounds, it is okay to use a map to find a different way to go. If the sounds are too loud, it is okay to put headphones on or cover your ears.



If you need help while you are visiting Zoo Lights look for someone in a Zoo uniform. Staff and volunteers can help.



Zoo Lights is a time to spend time with family, friends and our community. It is okay to need a break to spend some time on your own.

There are lots of things to do and see. It is okay to not see or do everything. If you need a break, you can visit a quiet room. These spots are marked on the map.



Quiet Room
habitación tranquila



While you are at the zoo, you may get hungry or thirsty. There are areas in the zoo to get snacks and drinks. You are welcome to bring your own food and drink to the Zoo. There will be a few places at the Zoo, like the Tropical Discovery building that you are not allowed to take food, drink or strollers in with you.



Because you will be at Denver Zoo, you may see, hear, smell, or even touch animals during your visit. Some of the smaller animals may be throughout the zoo for up-close meet and greet experiences with our zookeepers or volunteers.



When you see these animals, you can take a closer look. The staff and volunteers will help you and tell you if it is okay to touch the animal. If you do touch, they will have hand sanitizer that you will need to use afterward. Some animals look, feel, sound or smell different than we are used to. You can ask questions about the things you may notice.



You may also have the chance to see other animals throughout your visit. Some of these animals will be in their inside homes, while others will choose to stay outside. Some of these animals may have a strong smell, be loud, or have lots of people visiting their home.



Remember that the gates and fences are there to keep the animals and people safe. We should always stay behind fences and stay on the paths. Tapping on the glass or yelling to get the animals attention can be scary for them. We want the animals to feel safe and comfortable. We do this by using calm bodies and calm voices.



We are happy to have you at Zoo Lights and hope you will come back again.