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World Languages Day Frequently Asked Questions

Description of event:

World Languages Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo on Friday, Feb. 23, 2024! Upper-level students present in the language of their study to interpret animal exhibits throughout the Zoo. This day is designed for school field trips and homeschool students wishing to practice their language skills. Participating students will each receive a “passport” to get stamped after each presentation.

What’s the timeline for the day?

Zoo opens at 9:30 a.m. Students will be invited to opening remarks in the Peck Welcome Center at 10 a.m. Student presentations will start at 10:30 a.m. throughout the Zoo. First student group will present from 10:30–11:30 a.m. Then they will switch with other group members. Below is a tentative schedule:

- 9:30 Zoo opens
- 10:00 Opening Remarks
Then students are broken into their presenting groups and directed to their presentation locations by volunteers
- 10:30 First presenting student group
- 11:30 Switch presenters; other student group members can check out the other presentations, eat lunch, and see the animals
- 12:30 Switch presenters
- 1:30 End of presentations

We can adjust presenter blocks to suit your field trip and bussing requirements.

What’s expected of the student presenters?

Student presenters are expected to follow all Zoo rules. Students are expected to remain at their presentation location for the duration of their presentation slot. Presentations should be in the language of their study. Presentations should be trifold or made of materials that can be placed on a table. If necessary, students may use English alongside their language of study to explain concepts to those who do not speak their chosen language.

What’s expected of non-presenting students?



These students should pick up a passport in the Gathering Place or extras by the presentation stations. Students should go around the Zoo and visit other presentations. They will receive an animal stamp at each presentation.

What support will Zoological Society of Milwaukee Education staff provide?

ZSM staff assign presenting locations for teachers. They are available to answer any questions leading up to the event and provide assistance during the event. Opening remarks will be provided to orient students to the day's objectives and expectations. Staff will visit student presentations.

What's expected of teachers who sign their students up to present?

Teachers are expected to manage the field trip logistics for your group including booking your field trip with Milwaukee County Zoo and managing student behavior. Teachers are also responsible for dividing students into groups, assigning groups to their presentation topics and grading their presentations. Zoological Society of Milwaukee Education staff will supply the presentation topics and locations to teachers in early January.

What's the recommended student group size?

We recommend student groups of at least 6 so students can rotate presenting with other group members.

How long should verbal presentations take?

Students should plan to present to the public for 5-10 minutes including Q&A. If you are presenting in another format that has been coordinated, the timing may be different.

What languages will be represented?

We ran the event for the first in 2023 and we had two languages: German and Spanish. The representation of languages depends on participant registrations. We hope to have more languages this year including German, Spanish, Indigenous languages to this area and more!

What's an example of a project?

In 2023, we only had students present on animals. Below are two examples in German and Spanish.





What expectations does the Zoo have regarding chaperones?

Chaperones/teachers must stay with their students throughout their Zoo visit.

Are there any items that are not allowed in the Zoo?

The following items are prohibited at the Zoo and subject to removal: pets, roller skates/roller blades, Heelys, skateboards, glass, scooters, audible music devices, and items deemed disruptive to the animals. The Zoo does not allow eating in many of our buildings. Students will not be able to give out candy to attendees. Smoking, including the use of smokeless devices, is prohibited anywhere on Zoo grounds.

What options are available for lunch at the Zoo?

Groups may leave lunches on the bus or carry them in backpacks. Indoor and outdoor seating are available on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve a picnic site, please contact the Group Sales Department at 414-256-5430.