



Field Trip Guide

Chaperones:

- o A 10:1 ratio of students to chaperones is recommended to manage movement through Como.
- o Ensure all chaperones and the bus driver have the teacher's cell phone number and Como's phone numbers listed below.
- o Make sure all chaperones have the pick-up time and location.
- o Help your chaperones succeed in managing their group and consider having group participants wear nametags.
- o Como staff are located throughout Como. Staff wear nametags and carry a radio and are available if you need assistance.

Lunches:

- o Please do not eat lunch inside any buildings. In case of inclement weather, staff at the Visitor Service Desk can help find a spot for your group to eat lunch.
- o Locations for groups to eat on grounds include Como Harbor Amphitheater, Donor Plaza (near the Administration building), South patio (to the immediate left as you enter the zoo grounds), or Como Commons (between Gorilla Forest and the outdoor zebra yard).
- o Locker storage rentals may be available for storing lunches, check with the staff at the Visitor Service Desk. Lunches may be carried with you or stored on the bus.

Arrival:

- o Confirm the bus driver knows the drop-off locations.
- o Bus parking is street parking only. No buses are allowed in lots.
- o Enter through the main entrance at Como's Visitor Center. You do not have to check in with staff upon arrival, you can begin your field trip.

Plan your day accordingly:

- o The Blaze Sparky Show, Gorilla Program, Zookeeper and Gardener chats are scheduled daily. Check out our website at comozooconservatory.org for times and information.
- o Garden Safari Gifts and the Zoböta Café are open daily in the Visitor Center.
- o There are many gardens within the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and the surrounding areas. Familiarize yourself so you can plan in case the bus arrives early or the group needs a meeting spot for your chaperones and their students to congregate before meeting the bus. Picnic spaces are across the street from Como Town in the West Picnic area.



Etiquette:

- o Stay on the pathways, use a gentle touch on the plants and do not climb fences.
- o Be respectful of the animals by using inside voices and not tapping on the glass.
- o The animals are on specific diets, please do not share your food with them.

Departure:

- o When it is time to leave, field trip groups will exit through the Visitor Center.
- o The bus driver can pick your group up at the Circle Drive in front of the Visitor Center or where they dropped the group off.
- o If at any time you need assistance, please ask a staff member or call the Visitor Service Desk at 651-487-8201

Frequently Asked Questions:

What if I have a chaperone who is driving separately?

If you have a chaperone driving separately, they can park in any of the parking lots. Encourage them to arrive early as parking can be difficult to find at certain times of the day.

Where are your restrooms?

- Visitor Center, behind the Visitor Services desk.
- Marjorie McNeely Conservatory between the Fern Room and the Palm Dome
- Polar Bear Odyssey
- African Hoofed Stock in the tunnel
- Pier 56 by the KSTP Amphitheater

Where are water bottle refill stations located?

Water bottle filling stations can be found near the restrooms in the Visitor Center, in the Conservatory near the Fern room and at Pier 56 (seasonally in warmer months).