



John Ball Zoo Winter in the Woods Information

Where:

Please sign your child in with the instructors in the Sunroom, located in the upper level of the Administration Building, through the doors on the West (facing the hill) side. The included map outlines parking and drop-off locations in detail. There will also be directional signage posted around the building.

When:

Sprouts classes meet from 9am-11:30am. Sign-in will start approximately 5 minutes prior to the start of class. Pick-ups occurring later than 11:45am will incur a \$10 late pick-up fee.

COVID-19 Guidelines:

John Ball Zoo does not currently have any policies that require masking for general program participation. If a change to the policy is required after the time of registration all participants will be notified via email.

Clothing:

It is fun to stay outside if we are warm and dry. Please check that your child has warm, sturdy, well-fitting winter boots, snowpants/snowsuit/coat, hat, and mittens. We strongly recommend mittens rather than gloves. Socks should come up at least to the tops of their boots. Water resistant gear is most helpful. Layers underneath outerwear are also recommended. If you are unable to provide any of the above items, please let us know and we will confidentially make sure your child has the gear they need.

Food:

Please make sure your child has a balanced breakfast with plenty of protein to keep them going through our very active morning. We offer a small snack at 11:00 am but we will be outside learning through play and movement for up to an hour and a half.

Bathroom Policy:

All students must be self-sufficient in the bathroom; diapers and pull-ups are **not** permitted. Students will be further from restrooms as they explore the park. Instructors will be having everyone go to the bathroom prior to venturing out as it will be hard to make it back to a restroom quickly once exploration begins.

Special Needs:

Parents are responsible for informing us as soon as possible of any special needs (medical, dietary, allergy, learning, etc.) your child may have. We are committed to offering a great Zoo experience to all.

Cancellation Policy:

You may cancel and have money refunded (less a \$5 handling fee, per child, per class) **ONLY** with **at least 1 week notice**. Anything less will result in the forfeiture of the complete registration fee. If the Zoo cancels a program you will receive a full refund. In the event of severe winter weather the Zoo will cancel Winter in the Woods programming if Grand Rapids Public Schools close. The Zoo will make the best effort to email participants by 7am the morning of the program if there is a weather cancellation. We encourage you to also check local news stations for cancellation notices.

Necessary Items



Boots with good treads for grip. Warm and functional as opposed to decorative. No rain boots,



Mittens as opposed to gloves. Fingers stay warmer together. Waterproof/resistant is best.



Well-insulated coat that can get dirty or wet. Water-resistant. (or snowsuit)



Water-resistant snow pants. (or snowsuit)



Socks above the ankles stay on better in boots.



Warm hat that covers ears completely.

***Variations of outerwear are just fine. Please always check the weather forecast and dress your child accordingly, keeping in mind we stay out for over an hour with the exception of dangerously high wind or wind chill below 0. Better to have too much clothing than not enough. We can always unzip or remove a layer.**

Optional but helpful!



Neck gaiter if coat or hat doesn't cover neck.



On really cold days, this hat/hood/neck gaiter combo is awesome!



Tall, thick socks are best. Wool is great if you can find it.

We will be learning through play and exploration. You can expect your child's outerwear to get dirty, muddy, and/or wet. Sometimes the steep hill into the woods is slippery, so we crawl up. Fallen logs? We climb up or go under. If there is snow, we play in it. Mud puddles? We stomp in them. Ice? We slide around on it and see if it cracks. The natural world is filled with learning opportunities!

***If you are unable to provide winter gear, please let us know and we will discreetly provide them for you.**

John Ball Zoo: Winter in the Woods Map

Parents:

For your convenience please park in the large parking lot, East of the Zoo Administration building. Please use the ramp on the West side of the Administration building to access the upper level. Check-in will be through the West Side Doors in the Sunroom.

