

Twilight Safari Evenings 6:15-9pm

Overnight Outcomes:

1. Scouts enjoy spending time at the Zoo (Measure –post survey, “We had fun.”)
2. Scouts are connected to nature (Measure –informal assessment).
3. Scouts are empathetic for wildlife (Measure –post survey, “We want to help save animals in the wild.”)
4. Scouts are motivated to “take action” to reduce threats to wildlife (Measure –post survey).
5. Scouts describe how their personal actions may positively or negatively affect wildlife (Measure –informal assessment).

Key Conservation Messages:

Paper – Tree habitats where many animals live are being cut down to make paper and other products. Did you know that the average household uses 120 rolls of toilet paper each year? 27,000 trees are cut down each day to provide toilet paper to the world. These trees are important habitat for primates (like chimpanzees and orangutans) as well as North American species such as black bears, jaguars, and birds. Solution – Houston Zoo uses toilet paper made from recycled paper. You can help by recycling your paper in school and at home, or using both sides of a piece of paper before throwing it away. What other actions can you take to help reduce your use of paper products?

Plastic/Marine Debris – Plastic waste from land gets into streams and rivers and eventually into the ocean. Plastic never goes away; it just gets smaller and smaller. Animals eat it and choke or are poisoned. Solution – Zoo did away with plastic bottles and bags. Gift shops sell reusable bags and food vendors sell metal water bottles. They can help by recycling plastic, by bringing and using a refillable water bottle, instead of buying a single-use plastic bottle, and reminding mom to bring reusable bags when shopping.

Materials:

Blank postcard template
Great Kapok Tree book
Enrichment station items
How long until its gone activity board

Welcome & Introductions

- Guests will be entering through Gate 8 since they will not be spending the night.
- Encourage restroom use and anything they might need on tour (i.e. jackets and bug spray)
- Kahoot in Auditorium until 6:15pm
- Tell participants: Tonight, we are going to be exploring the Zoo and learning how we can help care for animals. We are going to identify where in the world animals come from, what they need to survive, how their needs are similar to ours, and how we can inspire others to care about animals, too.

Night Hike I – Where in the world do these animals come from?

Exhibit stops: elephants, cat row, bears, lions

Ambassador Animals – mammal, turtle/lizard, chicken

- Talk about animal care and how it relates to caring for oneself

- How do animals communicate since they can't talk? Discuss how keepers look and listen to understand animal needs and to properly care for them.

Indoor activity –Enrichment: What is it and what is it good for?

Participants will rotate through three stations where they can learn about several types of enrichment given to our animals: scents, food puzzles, and play-based activities.

- Station #1: Ants in a log. Figure out how to remove their “food” from the PVC pipe by manipulating it or using other items to pull them out.
- Station #2: Scent board. Match containers with the same scent. While the animals do not match them, they do get to experience different scents hidden on exhibit for them to find.
- Station #3: Boomer ball relay. Race boomer balls our big cats get to play with across a set distance and back.

Wrap up questions:

- Was this enrichment? [Enrichment is a challenge to an animal's body or mind. It keeps the animals healthy.](#)
- How was this a challenge for you?
- Was it fun to get food as a reward for your hard work?
- What is a type of enrichment you have seen around the Zoo?

Snack, Story & Break –

- Read *Great Kapok Tree*
- Share personal stories about your work here at the Zoo, how you care for animals and Q&A with guests
- Discussion questions:
 - Where do all of the animals in the story live?
 - Why was the man in the story going to cut down the Kapok tree?
 - How did the animals try to convince the man not to cut down the Kapok tree? What reasons did they give him to save the tree?
 - If the Kapok tree did get cut down, what would happen to the animals in the story?
 - What can the man do now that he knows how important the tree is to the animals?
 - The animals in the book use the tree in many ways. What are some ways that people use trees?
 - Who can you tell about the importance of trees and protecting our environment?

Night Hike II –Natural Encounters: How long until its gone activity board

- Participants will “clear the water” on the board and try to rank the items from shortest to longest decomposition time.
- They can then flip the tabs down to see if they are correct.
- Be sure to ask how marine debris affects the wild animals living in the ocean and how the girls can help!

Indoor Activity– The Power of a Post Card

- Location – BEC

- Now that the girls have learned about animal care and developed empathy for wildlife, this activity is an opportunity for them to share one way they can help care for animals with others.
- On one side of the picture postcard, they can create a picture that shows one important way to care for animals. On the other side, have chaperones assist the girls in creating a sentence that explains their picture.
- When the girls are ready, have them share their postcards with one another. Wrap up by pointing out how sending or passing along a postcard is a good way to spread the word about caring for animals. And when they are spreading the word about good things to do, they are being a leader! Encourage them to take their postcards home and pass it along to a close friend or family member.

Evening Wrap- Up –

- Pull the kids and adults in, recap what they've experienced. Have the girls share one way they learned they can care for animals and one action they can take to help protect their homes. Allow participants to ask any last-minute questions and then help direct everyone out to Gate 8. Goodbye!