



2015 Public Programs

Youth Classes, Family Classes, Adult Classes,
Camps, Birthday Parties, Group Tours



COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY

Get Closer



2 YEAR OLDS SMALL SPROUTS

Designed for children age 2 with an adult partner. These adult/child programs encourage family learning and foster early environmental awareness. Each class includes a craft, independent playtime, group activities and story time. Live plants or animals visit the room during each class!

Cost: \$15/child (adults are free)

MY COLORFUL ZOO

Have you ever seen a blue frog or a green bird? Fill your world with color as we experiment with mixing colors, create wacky artwork and meet colorful animals from the zoo.

Tuesday, April 7 9:30a-10:30a

GROW PLANTS, GROW!

How do plants grow? A ray of sunshine, a splash of rain and a handful of soil! Discover your green thumb as we dig in the dirt and pick out the perfect plant pal to bring home and take care of.

Thursday, May 7 9:30a-10:30a

HANDS ON

The zoo and conservatory are full of texture! Touch and feel your way through this class as we explore bones, furs, feathers, fruits, leaves and bark. Go on a texture walk, make a furry or feathery friend and meet soft and spiny plants and animals.

Thursday, May 21 9:30a-10:30a



FANCY FROG FRIENDS

Hop to the zoo for this class on fancy frog and toad friends! Join us as we grow and move like frogs, sing a silly frog song and meet some live frogs and toads from the zoo. It will be toad-ally awesome!

Thursday, June 4 9:30a-10:30a

1,2,3...ZOO!

One turtle, two frogs, three bugs, four lions and five, little monkeys – counting at the zoo is tons of fun! Play animal counting bingo, sing songs and make sure all the zoo animals are accounted for as we number our way through the zoo.

Tuesday, June 16 9:30a-10:30a

MINI BEASTS AND GENTLE GIANTS

Are giant elephants really afraid of mini mice? Find out during this class about big and small animals at the zoo. Meet different sized animals, play matching games and paint a huge animal to take home. We'll have big fun in this little class!

Thursday, July 9 9:30a-10:30a

ALPHABET ZOO

From A is for Armadillo all the way to Z is for Zebra... let's explore the alphabet at the zoo! Laugh and learn while rescuing each other from the silly alphabet animals, build your own zoo, meet some live animals, and much more!

Thursday, July 23 9:30a-10:30a



SPOTS AND STRIPES

From striped zebras to dotted leaves, patterns are everywhere at the zoo and conservatory! We'll learn about stripes and spots by playing spots and stripes dress-up, singing songs, meeting live plants and animals and making patterned friends to take home.

Thursday, August 6 9:30a-10:30a

NOISY ZOO

Growl, squawk, hiss, ribbit... what do animal noises mean? Bark like a sea lion, roar like a tiger and howl like a wolf as we explore the noisy world of animal sounds. Play a sound game, hear a story, sing and use your listening ears to discover noises at the zoo.

Thursday, August 20 9:30a-10:30a

ZOO STORIES (NEW)

Once upon a time there were wee, little Small Sprouts playing at the zoo...Join us as we explore some of our favorite zoo books through art, activities, music, and more. We'll also be visited by some of the characters in these books that live at the zoo!

Tuesday, September 8 9:30a-10:30a



3 YEAR OLDS PROGRAMS FOR 3s

Designed for children age 3 with an adult partner. These programs encourage family learning and foster environmental awareness. Live plant or animal encounters will be included in the classroom or through exploring the zoo and conservatory.

Cost: \$15/child (adults are free)

SPRING FLING

Spring has sprung! Bird songs fill the air, the days are getting longer, and you can smell the flowers blooming and feel the mud squish between your toes. Join us for a spring fling as we explore mystery boxes, create “worm” paintings, and pot spring plants to take home!

Tuesday, April 21 9:30a-10:45a

ANIMAL BABIES

A baby zebra is a foal, a baby giraffe is a calf, and a baby penguin is a chick. Visit Como Zoo’s newest arrivals and learn how animal moms and dads care for their babies while we sing songs, tell stories and play games.

Thursday, May 14 9:30a-10:45a

FROGS AND FRIENDS

Jump like a frog, grow like a toad, wriggle like a tiny tadpole and snack like a slimy salamander as we learn all about frogs and their amphibian friends. We’ll compare all kinds of frogs and toads... can you tell the difference?

Thursday, May 28 9:30a-10:45a

GARDENING

How does your garden grow? Get your hands dirty as we become budding gardeners. We’ll plant seeds and learn to help them grow, meet some garden animals, play gardener dress-up and decorate pots.

Thursday, June 11 9:30a-10:45a



GOING BUGGY

Fly, hop, crawl, swim or buzz on over to learn what makes a bug a bug! Play a game of buggy bingo, build a bug, meet some BIG bugs, and other creepy, crawly fun.

Tuesday, June 23 9:30a-10:45a

SUMMERTIME

Turtles are basking in the heat of day and bats are feasting on mosquitoes by night...summer is in full swing! Come to see how the animals stay cool at the zoo. Splash in our play pond, create cool mud art, and take home a yummy Popsicle recipe – tasted and approved Como’s monkeys!

Tuesday, July 14 9:30a-10:45a

FEATHERY FRIENDS

What do birds eat? How do feathers feel? Gather your flock to learn the parts of a bird, decorate your very own bird-noculars, and have other feathery fun. A Como Zoo bird will even visit your classroom. You’d be cuckoo to miss this class!

Thursday, July 30 9:30a-10:45a



FANCY FEET

Whether you’ve got two feet, four feet, more feet or happy feet, there’s a lot to learn about animal feet! We’ll see climbing feet, sticky feet, swimming feet and even feet with thumbs as we hoof it around the zoo in search of neat feet.

Thursday, August 13 9:30a-10:45a



ROCKIN’ REPTILES

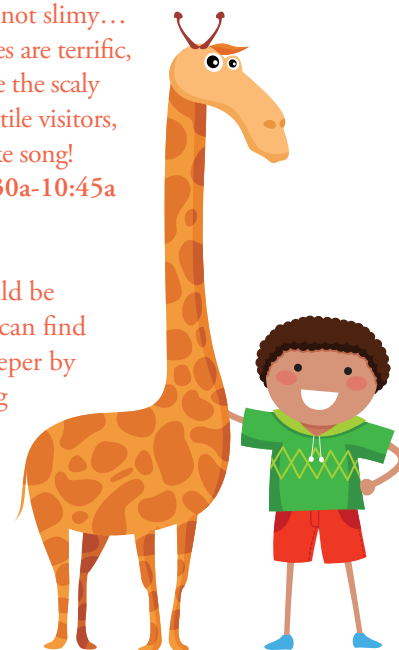
Reptiles are scaly, but they’re not slimy... in fact, snakes are super, turtles are terrific, and lizards are lovely. Explore the scaly side of life as we meet live reptile visitors, play turtle tag and sing a snake song!

Thursday, August 27 9:30a-10:45a

ZOOKEEPER

Do you wonder what it would be like to be a zookeeper? You can find out! Practice being a zookeeper by feeding the animals, cleaning “exhibits,” and playing veterinarian. Then dress up like a zookeeper-in-training and watch the real professionals at work.

**Tuesday, September 22
9:30a-10:45a**



AGES 4-5

ADULT/CHILD PRESCHOOL

Designed for children ages 4-5, accompanied by an adult. These programs encourage family learning and foster environmental awareness. Live plant or animal encounters and/or tours will be included during class.

Cost: \$15/child (adults are free)

ANIMAL TRACKS

Have you ever found a trail of tracks in the snow? Tracks come in all sizes and shapes, and can tell us interesting stories. We'll learn about animal tracks through matching games, stories, an art project and more. Finally, meet some animals that leave remarkable tracks!

Tuesday, January 20 1:30p-2:45p

PENGUINS ON PARADE!

What walks with a waddle, brays like a donkey, swims like a dolphin, yet cannot fly? Get up close and personal with one of Como's penguins as we dive into the wacky world of penguins!

Tuesday, February 10 9:30a-10:45a



RAINFOREST RHYTHMS

Sloths, figs, frogs, and bromeliads... learn about the tropical rainforest by getting to know the rainforest plants and animals throughout the zoo and conservatory and right in our classroom! Don't leave without making a rainforest instrument to take home!

Tuesday, March 17 9:30a-10:45a

BUNNY HOP

Have a hare-raising adventure as we watch a rabbit during feeding time, make a bunny craft to take home, play hopping games, and twitch our little noses.

Tuesday, April 14 1:30p-2:45p

SNAKES ARE SSSUPER!

Meet some of the many snakes that reside at the zoo and discover what makes snakes so special. We'll learn about snakes through hands-on activities, stories, crafts, songs and more!

Tuesday, May 5 1:30p-2:45p

SPARKY AND FRIENDS

Slip and slide over to Como Zoo for this popular class! How do you tell a seal from a sea lion? What tools do the zookeepers use to train Sparky? See Sparky and all of her friends as we learn the many wonders of life in the water.

Tuesday, May 19 9:30a-10:45a

Tuesday, August 18 10:30a-11:45a

GIRAFFES GALORE

Learn the wonders of these gentle African giants. Discover where giraffes live, see what they eat and learn how they protect their calves. We will even visit our resident giraffes and see how Como zookeepers take such good care of them.

Tuesday, June 9 1:30p-2:45p

LIFE IN A SHELL

Birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and bugs lay eggs – so what's the big deal? Investigate what's inside an egg, meet some egg-laying animals, and discover how eggs are cared for in the animal kingdom.

We'll learn about eggs through hands-on activities, stories, songs and fun!

Tuesday, June 23 1:30p-2:45p



BEAUTIFUL BIG CATS

Why do lions roar? Why do tigers have stripes and leopards have spots? What do cougars eat? Meet Como's big cats as we have a roaring adventure with artifacts, songs and stories!

Tuesday, July 7 1:30p-2:45p

A JAPANESE GARDEN FOR YOU

Explore "The Ordway Gardens – A Japanese Collection," and see the pathways, giant rocks, trimmed trees and waterfalls that make this garden extraordinary. Then, design and build a Japanese garden of your very own to take home.

Tuesday, July 21 9:30a-10:45a

DINOSAUR STOMP

Join us as we journey into the realm of dinosaurs to explore what they ate and what they looked like. We'll play dinosaur dress up and meet a modern, live dinosaur relative. It will be dino-mite!

Tuesday, August 4 1:30p-2:45p

GO GO GORILLA!

Did you know that gorillas aren't monkeys? They're apes! Learn some gorilla fun facts as we get a close encounter with some of Como's hairiest residents and meet their zookeeper. You'd be bananas to miss this class because gorillas are great!

Tuesday, September 15 1:30p-2:45p



BATS: NIGHT FRIENDS

Fly on over to meet Como's very own bats! We'll learn what's true about bats, and what's just a myth. Investigate how bats move, discover how they fly in the dark and see what they eat. We will do a hands-on bat project and read a batty story too.

Tuesday, October 13 9:30a-10:45a

POLAR BEARS BUDDIES

The polar bear is the only bear to thrive on land and in the sea. Learn about these white giants of the Arctic as we sing songs and play games. Then, create a polar bear buddy of your own to take home.

Tuesday, November 17 1:30p-2:45p

REINDEER ROMP

What's that I hear up on the rooftop? Just in time for the holidays, discover the magic of reindeer while meeting Como's reindeer and their zookeeper, playing some reindeer games, singing a reindeer song and other frosty fun!

Tuesday, December 15 9:30a-10:45a

LIL' EXPLORER THURSDAYS



Come explore
10-noon each
Thursday,

September-April
in the Visitor's Center.

See story time, meet plant and animal visitors, play games and many other fun activities. Each week has a new theme. Visit the website for more info:

www.comozooconservatory.org

FREE!



Lil' Explorer Thursdays is funded, in part, by the Minnesota State Arts Board through the arts and cultural heritage fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the Legacy Amendment.

FAMILY CLASSES

Family classes are designed for families with children ages 4 and older, except where noted. These classes involve all members of the family and include live plant or animal encounters and/or tours.

Cost: \$15/person

TRIP TO THE TROPICS

It may be cold outside, but it's always warm in the tropical rain forest! Visit the tropics by exploring the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. Meet rain forest plants and animals, get a bird's eye view of the Tropical Encounters exhibit, learn about rain forest conservation, and make a musical rain stick to take home.

Saturday, January 17 1:30p-3:30p



MM...MM...CHOCOLATE!

Tour the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory to learn about chocolate and how it is made. Touch, taste, and smell your way through this class and then challenge yourself in the family food game. We'll use cacao, bananas, cherries, macadamia nuts and more to make chocolate candy. It will be mm...mm...delicious!

Saturday, February 14 9:00a-11:00a

POLAR BEAR BASH

What makes polar bears so different from other bears? Learn all about this amazing species by meeting a polar bear zookeeper, creating and observing polar bear enrichment, playing polar bear games and discussing wild polar bear populations.

Saturday, March 7 9:00a-11:00a

BIG CAT BREAKFAST

Have you ever made breakfast for a tiger? Get to know Como's big cats as you prepare their breakfast enrichment, observe adaptations and behaviors, and discuss worldwide conservation efforts. This class is sure to be a roarin' good time for the whole family.

Saturday, April 11 8:30a-10:30a



AFRICAN SAFARI

Travel through Africa by visiting plants and animals throughout Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. From African food and music to geography and legends, we'll touch on a bit of everything. It's sure to be a safari your family will not soon forget.

Sunday, May 3 9:00a-11:00a

FROG-TASTIC & TOAD-ERRIFIC!

What is an amphibian? Leap on over to discover more about frogs and toads through activities, games, and crafts. Learn how Como is working to conserve threatened frog species and how you can help amphibians in the wild. It will be a hopping great time!

Saturday, June 13 9:00a-11:00a

FANTASTIC FLIPPERS: SEALS AND SEA LIONS

Ever wanted to work with marine mammals? Discover the training techniques Como's zookeepers use to help keep the animals healthy. Meet Sparky the sea lion and friends as we explore the world of pinnipeds and meet the people who work with them.

Saturday, July 18 2:00p-4:00p

CREEPY CRAWLIES

Bugs are amazing creatures that live in almost every habitat, come in a spectacular array of colors, shapes, and sizes, and help humans in countless ways. Come learn about (and meet) insects and many other creepy crawlies in this class that's sure to be a blast for the entire family.

Saturday, August 8 9:00a-11:00a

BEHIND THE SCENES: ZOO AND CONSERVATORY*

What is it like to work at the Zoo and Conservatory? How and why do the zookeepers train animals? Where do the gardeners grow all of the Conservatory's gorgeous plants? Get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the workings of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.

Saturday, September 26 8:30a-10:30a

**Note: This class is appropriate for families with children ages six and older.*

HOWL WITH THE WOLVES

Enjoy an evening adventure as we hang out with Como's wolf residents, play wolf pack games and tell stories by the bonfire. Learn how wolves hunt, interpret wolf behavior and discuss the controversy surrounding wolves in the wild. It will be a howling good time for you and your pack.

Friday, October 9 6:30p-8:30p

PRIMATE POTLUCK

Swing on over for this popular class as we have a morning filled with fun! Prepare breakfast for Como's primates and watch them enjoy these treats. We will learn to observe and interpret primate behaviors and also touch on primate conservation. It's definitely worth waking up early!

Saturday, November 7 8:30a-10:30a

HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT*

Celebrate the holidays at the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. View our holiday plant display, meet a gardener, and use natural materials to create a holiday gift for someone special or decorations for your home.

Sunday, December 6 1:30p-3:30p

**Note: This class is appropriate for families with children ages six and older.*



BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Have a birthday bash to remember at Como! It's the only place where you can party like an animal and leave the cleaning to us! We offer nine unique party themes – each with live animal visitors, plants, or a personal tour of a featured animal exhibit (public area). We can even provide pizza and cake, so the only party planning you need to think about is when to come!

BASIC PARTY PACKAGE

- Ninety minute use of a birthday party space in the Visitor Center decorated for your specific theme and party type.
- Forty-five minutes of your time includes an educational program with interactive activities and animal visitors or a personal tour of a featured exhibit (public space). The additional 45-minute time period is for your personal birthday celebration.

Cost: \$225 for up to 15 guests. Everyone in the room is counted (children one and under are free with paid adult). \$5 for each additional guest.

PARTY PLUS PACKAGE

- The same listing as the Basic Party package
- Pizza, cake, beverages, and birthday themed paper products. An additional “smasher” cake is included for one year-old birthdays only.

Cost: \$300 for up to 15 guests. Everyone in the room is counted (children one and under are free with paid adult). \$7 for each additional guest.

OTHER AVAILABLE ADD-ONS

- Gift Bags – from Como's Garden Safari Gifts - \$5 each
- Sponsor-an-Animal Certificates – Choose any animal at Como to sponsor! Certificates are personalized and include fact sheet and picture of selected animal - \$5 each
 - A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a date for a birthday.
 - For safety reasons, balloons, piñatas and gifts of live animals are not allowed on grounds.



AGES 1 & 2 LIL ZOOKEEPER

Interact with plenty of hands-on activities for little ones and meet live animals.

AGES 3+ ROCKIN' REPTILES

Meet live reptiles like snakes, lizards, and turtles.

BUGGY BIRTHDAY

Meet live insects, spiders, and other cool bugs.

BOTANY AND THE BEAST

Meet live animals and plants which share a connection in nature.

RAINFOREST ROMP

Meet live plants and animals from the tropical rainforest.

AGES 4+ CRAZY ABOUT CATS

Includes personal tour (public area) of lion, tiger, cougar, and snow leopard exhibits.

PARTY WITH THE PRIMATES

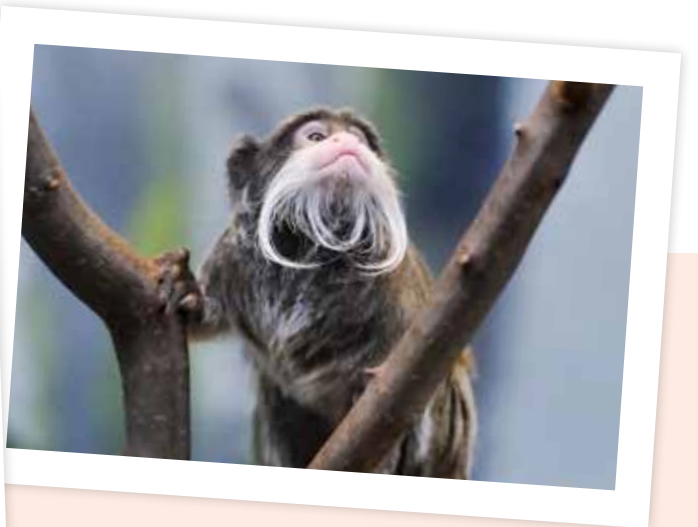
Includes personal tour (public area) of orangutan, gorilla, lemur, and monkey exhibits.

POLAR BEARS AND FRIENDS

Includes personal tour (public area) of seal/sea lion, penguin, puffin, or polar bear exhibits.

ZEBRAS, GIRAFFES & FOXES, OH MY!

Includes personal tour (public area) of zebra, giraffe, ostrich, kudu, fox, bison or reindeer exhibits.



PRE-K THRU 8TH GRADE CAMP COMO

Spend some time *Monkeying Around* with your primate pals; discover your creative side with *Adventures in Art*; take an *African Adventure* right at Como; or try on the hat of a zookeeper or gardener in *Behind-the-Scenes!*

Como's camps focus on expanding each child's appreciation for the natural world while meeting zookeepers and gardeners, having "behind-the-scenes" experiences and meeting Como's plant and animal ambassadors up-close!

Qualified and enthusiastic instructors teach camps for children in preschool through eighth grade. Children are accepted into age-appropriate camps based on the grade they will have **completed** by the end of the 2014-2015 school year.

Camps are half-day sessions, Monday through Friday. All-day adventures are available by taking a morning and an afternoon camp in the same week, within the same age group. A supervised lunch period is included for full day campers. Children bring their own lunch or a box lunch can be purchased in advance. Extended Care is also available for early drop off or late pick up.

Cost:
\$130/Camp and \$150/Behind-the-Scenes Camps*

Member Rates:
\$117/Camp and \$135/Behind-the-Scenes Camps*
*Premium price due to increased staff involvement

Extended Care Fee: \$10/session
Boxed Lunch Fee: \$7

Preschool Camps For children who are 4 or 5 years old and have not attended Kindergarten.

HALF-DAY
SESSIONS
TAUGHT BY
QUALIFIED AND
ENTHUSIASTIC
INSTRUCTORS!



PRESCHOOL CAMPS

For 4 or 5 year olds who have not attended Kindergarten.

AFRICAN SAFARI

Lions, zebras and giraffes, oh my! Take a trip to the continent of Africa and experience exciting adventures each day. Visit Como's African plants and animals and create your own African art.

June 1-5 10:00a-12:00p

June 29-July 2 10:00a-12:00p *\$110 prorated for 4 days

August 3-7 10:00a-12:00p

ZOO BABIES

Kits, infants, calves, cubs and hatchlings—welcome to the world of zoo babies and ultimate cuteness. Play baby animal match-up and visit Como's newest arrivals to learn how animal moms and dads care for their young. Act like an animal as you play with, clean, feed, carry and teach your "zooborn" bundle of joy.

June 1-5 10:00a-12:00p

July 6-July 10 10:00a-12:00p

August 10-14 10:00a-12:00p



ANIMAL SENSES

Snakes smell with their tongues, butterflies taste with their feet, and some animals feel with their whiskers. We'll meet these animals up close! Take a sense-ational trip through Como's exhibits and gardens, exploring with our fantastic five senses.

June 1-5 1:00p-3:00p

July 27-31 1:00p-3:00p

IN THE DIRT

Bugs and worms, potatoes and seeds—life is busy below the ground! Get dirty as campers learn what is so wonderful about dirt. Explore things that dig, burrow, sprout or eat the dirt and learn why so many creatures depend on soil to survive. (Soap and water included in camp fee!)

June 1-5 1:00p-3:00p

June 29-July 2 1:00p-3:00p *\$110 prorated for 4 days

August 10-14 1:00p-3:00p

UNDER THE SEA

Splash! Jump on in and get ready for a wet and wild week as we explore the world under the sea. Through crafts, games, and awesome adventures, we'll learn all about the plants and animals that make the ocean their home. We'll meet penguins and puffins, seals and sea lions, sea fans and fish, polar bears and other ocean friends!

June 8-12 10:00a-12:00p
July 27-31 10:00a-12:00p



AMAZING ART

Roll up your sleeves for a camp full of texture, pattern and color! Let your creative side shine as we work with paints, collage, stamping and more! Learn not only about the joy of art, but discover colorful plants and furry, scaly and slimy animals as well.

June 8-12 1:00p-3:00p
July 6-July 10 1:00p-3:00p
August 3-7 1:00p-3:00p

K – 1ST GRADE CAMPS

For children who have completed Kindergarten or 1st grade.

MONKEYING AROUND

Go bananas with your friends as we monkey around during this camp! Sure, monkeys have tails, gorillas don't, and lemurs have snouts...but what are other differences between these animals? Meet a primate zookeeper, observe primates at feeding time and participate in the banana Olympics as we explore the wide world of primate pals.

June 8-12 9:00a-12:00p
July 13-17 9:00a-12:00p
August 17-21 9:00a-12:00p

BUGMANIA

If you are big on bugs, then this is the camp for you! Get ready to get your hands grubby as we search for and examine worms, millipedes, spiders, butterflies and more. Campers will learn the parts of an insect, discover how some bugs grow, locate some "bug bandits" in the Conservatory and even bring some bugs home (don't worry, they aren't real).

June 8-12 1:00p-4:00p
July 20-24 1:00p-4:00p
August 10-14 1:00p-4:00p



DINOSAUR TIMES

How are ostriches, giraffes and turtles like dinosaurs? What do fossils teach us about prehistoric times? Did you know you can tell if an animal was a plant or meat eater by looking at its skull? Discover clues leftover from the time of the dinosaurs as we learn how fossils are formed, go on a paleontological dig and meet some modern relatives of dinosaurs!

June 22-26 9:00a-12:00p
July 20-24 9:00a-12:00p
August 10-14 9:00a-12:00p

ALL ABOUT ART

Discover your wild and creative side! Use your five senses to explore nature and art through collage, drawing and painting. To inspire the artist within, campers will get up close visits from Como's plant and animal ambassadors.

June 22-26 1:00p-4:00p
July 27-31 1:00p-4:00p

FOR THE BIRDS

Walk, waddle, swim or run to this feathery, fun-filled camp! Conduct feather and beak experiments, make bird feeders, examine eggs and more. We'll become bird-brainiacs as we meet a variety of birds from around the globe here at Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.

July 13-17 1:00p-4:00p
July 27-31 9:00a-12:00p
August 17-21 1:00p-4:00p



1ST – 3RD GRADE CAMPS

For children who have completed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade.

POLAR EXPEDITION

Are you a brave young explorer looking for an extreme adventure with your tundra buddies? Bundle up because we've got a polar expedition with YOUR name on it! Journey to the harsh, polar regions of the planet to experience polar bears as they plunge into the sea, reindeer as they tussle on the tundra, penguins as they make a splash in the ocean and arctic fox as they frolic in the snow.

June 8-12	9:00a-12:00p
July 6-10	9:00a-12:00p
July 20-24	9:00a-12:00p

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

Get your passports in order, the Como Express is waiting for you! Bring good walking shoes, as Africa is a large continent with many things to do. Come learn about sand dunes, savannahs, rain forests and more as campers take an adventure to remember.

June 8-12	1:00p-4:00p
July 6-10	1:00p-4:00p
August 10-14	9:00a-12:00p

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS: SCALY AND SLIMY

What's the difference between a reptile and an amphibian? Hop, slither, or swim over to Como to encounter the coolest cold-blooded creatures at the zoo! Campers will meet live reptiles and amphibians, discover their amazing adaptations, observe reptiles at training and feeding time and play slimy games.

June 15-19	9:00a-12:00p
July 13-17	9:00a-12:00p
August 17-21	9:00a-12:00p



ART EXPLORATION

Learn pencil, charcoal, watercolor and oil pastel as we explore the world of art. Each camper will try new mediums and techniques to discover a style of their own. Imagine yourself in the midst of many beautiful plants and lively animals of all shapes, sizes and colors, all to inspire your creativity.

June 15-19	1:00p-4:00p
July 20-24	1:00p-4:00p
August 17-21	1:00p-4:00p

ANIMAL OLYMPICS

If the Olympics were held for animals, what would the events be? Who would take home the gold? Brush up on your international animal know-how. Then join Team Como as we sprint like cheetahs, leap like kangaroos, power-lift like rhinoceros beetles and take aim like archer fish. Get ready to carry the torch to world record-setting fun!

June 22-26	9:00a-12:00p
August 10-14	1:00p-4:00p

WILD THINGS

This wild week campers will start here in Minnesota and then embark on a journey from the local pond all the way to Africa and South America. At each stop, campers will encounter amazing plants, animals and construct a wild craft to take home. Passports not necessary!

June 22-26	1:00p-4:00p
July 13-17	1:00p-4:00p
August 24-28	1:00p-4:00p



BIG CATS

Go cat crazy as campers spend a week learning the ins and outs of Como's cats. Discover the special adaptations each species possess, explore the various habitats where cats live and see how cats hunt for food. Campers will make enrichments for Como's feline residents and observe first-hand each animal's unique reaction!

June 29-July 2	9:00a-12:00p	*\$110 prorated for 4 days
August 3-7	9:00a-12:00p	
August 24-28	9:00a-12:00p	

PLANT PARTY

Flowers, fruit, butterflies and Japanese gardening make this a week to remember! Get dirty exploring all shapes, sizes and textures of living things. Hear about gardens from the professionals and then create your own to take home.

June 29-July 2	1:00p-4:00p	*\$110 prorated for 4 days
August 3-7	1:00p-4:00p	

4TH – 6TH GRADE CAMPS

For children who will have completed 4th, 5th, or 6th grade.

MAMMAL MADNESS

Lions and tigers and bears ... how cool! This camp focuses on the wonderful world of mammals. Discover all about mammalian characteristics, learn how and why animals are trained at the zoo, and visit many Como Zoo mammal residents, both large and small.

June 15-19 9:00a-12:00p
August 3-7 1:00p-4:00p

SUPERHERO SPECIES I (NEW)

Discover the amazing super powers of animals and plants from around the world in this exciting new camp. Find out what superpower adaptations animals and plants have developed to survive, from super speed and strength to invisibility and night vision. Create your own superhero species and compare some of your favorite superheroes to the animals and plants that have similar powers!

June 15-19 1:00p-4:00p
July 13-17 1:00p-4:00p



PRIMATE EXPLORERS

It's the closest thing to being a primate keeper! This team of researchers will delve into the natural behaviors of different primates. Meet primate zoo keepers, participate in primate food preparation, design and observe enrichment activities and discover ape training techniques...all while experiencing the new Gorilla Forest exhibit!

June 22-26 9:00a-12:00p
July 20-24 9:00a-12:00p

EXHIBIT DESIGN

Join the Exhibit Design team at Como Zoo! Spend the week investigating the needs of different plants, animals and our visitors. Explore the new Gorilla Forest exhibit, analyze the state-of-the-art Polar Bear Odyssey exhibit and hear about the plans for the next new exhibit renovation. Meet zookeepers, gardeners and even design members working on the future exhibits. Then, use your knowledge to create your own perfect exhibit!

June 22-26 1:00p-4:00p
July 20-24 1:00p-4:00p

DIP, DIVE, DISCOVER

Dip behind the scenes and learn how Como relies on and recycles its water resources. Encounter a variety of water-loving plants and animals as you dive into the important relationships water plays in survival. Play a role in feeding the sea lions, travel to the ocean to visit the penguins and participate in the Polar Bear Ice Hop Challenge. Campers will have fun while they discover the wonderful world of water!

June 29-July 2 9:00a-12:00p *\$110 prorated for 4 days
August 3-7 9:00a-12:00p

ADVENTURES IN ART

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory is an inspiring place to practice and learn art skills. Students will apply observation skills to the many live plant and animal subjects at Como while exploring painting, drawing and sculpture. Campers will also learn to use some unlikely materials to create art. This camp creatively combines learning about the natural world and learning to artistically express oneself.

June 29-July 2 1:00p-4:00p *\$110 prorated for 4 days
August 24-28 1:00p-4:00p

INTRO TO ANIMAL CARE

Animal husbandry is the care and management of animals; excellent animal husbandry is one of the primary goals of zoos. This camp will delve into various aspects of animal care including diet prep and nutrition, animal training, enrichment, exhibit design and animal first aid. Conclude the week by meeting a zookeeper and learning how zoos work towards animal conservation goals.

July 13-17 9:00a-12:00p
August 24-28 9:00a-12:00p



6TH – 8TH GRADE CAMPS

For children who will have completed 6th, 7th or 8th grade.

A THRU Z: BEHIND THE SCENES

A thru Z = Apes, Giraffes and Zebras. If you have ever wanted to work with plants and animals, then don't miss this unique behind-the-scenes camp! Participants will learn the basics of zookeeping, gardening, and educating the public through hands-on experiences. Students will have opportunities to meet a zoo veterinarian, assist the gardeners with behind-the-scenes plant care, prepare animal diets and enrichment, learn basic animal care and handling skills, and tour behind-the-scenes throughout the Zoo and Conservatory. This camp primarily focuses on the Primate Building, Hoofstock Building and Tropical Encounters exhibit.

June 15-19 9:00a-12:00p

July 27-31 9:00a-12:00p

WATER WORLDS

Meet zookeepers, feed fish, and tour behind the scenes as you become immersed in the underwater world at Como. Find out what it's like to be an aquarist: one who feeds, monitors and cares for aquatic animals and their environments. Gain an understanding for how fish swim through fish dissection. Also, learn how to set up a fish tank, and better yet, keep it going! From sting rays to sea horses, we'll see it all.

June 15-19 1:00p-4:00p

August 17-21 1:00p-4:00p

A.B.C.: BEHIND THE SCENES

A.B.C. = Aquatics, Bears and Cats. If you have ever wanted to work with plants and animals, then don't miss this unique behind-the-scenes camp! Participants will learn the basics of zookeeping, gardening, and educating the public through hands-on experiences. Students will have opportunities to meet a zoo veterinarian, assist the gardeners with behind-the-scenes plant care, prepare animal diets and enrichment, learn basic animal care and handling skills, and tour behind-the-scenes throughout the Zoo and Conservatory. This camp primarily focuses on the Aquatic Animal Building, Polar Bear Odyssey Exhibit and Cat Building.

July 6-10 9:00a-12:00p

August 17-21 9:00a-12:00p

SUPERHERO SPECIES II (NEW)

If you could steal a species' powers and become a superhero what would you choose? Join us as we explore the strange and sometimes unbelievable adaptations of Planet Earth's creatures. Observe Como's many animal and plant species, discover their super skills, and then design your own superhero. We'll also dive into the science behind these amazing adaptations, including genetic mutations and survival of the fittest.

July 6-10 1:00p-4:00p

July 27-31 1:00p-4:00p

ausm
autism society of minnesota

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, in partnership with the Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM), offers summer camp opportunities for youth, ages 8-18, with autism.

For more information about these camps or to register, please visit AuSM's website at www.ausm.org or contact AuSM at 651.647.1083.



ADULTS ONLY DISCOVERY SERIES

Join us for an educational and entertaining program as we explore the wonders of the natural world within the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and Como Park Zoo. Many of our programs will take you behind-the-scenes or provide a more intimate exploration of the zoo and conservatory during non-public hours.

Cost: \$15/person

BIG CAT ENRICHMENT

What makes a big cat a big cat? Prepare and observe breakfast enrichment for the lions, tigers, snow leopards and cougars. Then one by one, watch their reactions! We'll also touch on conservation issues related to cats.

Saturday, January 31 8:30a-10:00a

CREATURES OF THE NIGHT: BATS

Bizarre and fascinating...with more than 1,000 species worldwide, bats amount to approximately one quarter of all mammal species. But are bats really scary? Can they give you rabies? Do vampire bats truly exist? Explore the facts and myths swirling around these intriguing creatures of the night while meeting Como's very own bat ambassadors.

Friday, February 27 6:30p-8:00p

ZOO AND CONSERVATORY: BEHIND THE SCENES

How and why do the zookeepers train animals? Where do the gardeners grow all of the Conservatory's gorgeous plants? What goes into planning new exhibits? Learn the answers to these questions as we get a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the inner workings of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory.

Sunday, March 22 8:30a-10:00a

POLAR BEAR ENRICHMENT

These amazing bears can weigh 1,000 pounds or more. Meet a polar bear zookeeper to learn how they train these white giants, prepare and observe polar bear enrichment, and explore the award-winning Polar Bear Odyssey exhibit without the crowds!

Saturday, April 25 8:30a-10:00a

ORCHID ODYSSEY

There are over 30,000 different species of orchids worldwide. Take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Orchid House in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory to see the extensive orchid collection. Then, meet a gardener, learn some orchid basics, and receive tips to help you grow orchids at home.

Saturday, May 23 8:30a-10:00a

POWER OF POLLINATORS (NEW)

Pollinators may be small, but they play a large role in the production of the food we eat, the health of our gardens and the ecosystems wildlife depend on. Join us as we learn about plant-pollinator relationships, the importance of pollinators, current issues and concerns, and what you can do to help.

Saturday, June 27 1:30p-3:00p

WOLF ECOLOGY

Join us as we explore the complex world of wolves. Discover and observe fascinating wolf behaviors, learn how wolves impact the ecosystem they live in, and discuss current conservation issues and controversy surrounding wolves and people.

Sunday, July 26 6:30p-8:00p

JAPANESE GARDENS

Explore "The Ordway Gardens – A Japanese Collection" before public hours. Chat with an educator and a gardener to find out why the trees are trimmed to look like clouds and mountains, why not many flowers are used, why the paths aren't straight and where those giant rocks came from.

Saturday, August 22 8:30a-10:00a



PRIMATE ENRICHMENT

Prepare breakfast enrichment for Como's apes and monkeys. Learn about the individual characteristics that each primate uses to forage, travel, and communicate, then take home some conservation tips to help primates around the world!

Saturday, September 12 8:30a-10:00a

HISTORY OF COMO (NEW)

In 1897, the City of Saint Paul fenced in a pasture to hold three deer gifted to them, thus beginning Como Zoo. The Conservatory opened in 1915 and together these two iconic destinations have a rich history. Take a pictorial stroll through the history of Como and receive a guided tour through the zoo and conservatory during non-public hours.

Sunday, October 11 8:30a-10:00a

SPICE IT UP!

Whether used as money or seasonings, spices have a story rich in history. Explore the many uses, origins, and tastes of spices during this class. Travel through the North Garden before it is open to the public, then make some spiced teas to take home.

Saturday, November 21 8:30a-10:00a

HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT

Take a break from the holiday hustle to create unique gifts and decor while surrounded by the beauty of the Conservatory's Holiday Flower Show. We'll also meet a gardener and learn about traditional holiday plants like poinsettias, mistletoe and holly.

Saturday, December 19 8:00a-10:00a



GROUP TOURS

Travel through the many gardens of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory as you explore this historic treasure. Our tour packages include a Como Education staff led visit to the gardens of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory along with up-close animal encounters in a classroom setting. A 10% discount from Como's Garden Safari Gifts is also included for group tour participants. A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a date.

Along with your tour, we encourage you to immerse yourself in our Tropical Encounters exhibit and learn what it would be like to visit a real rain forest with rain forest plants and animals.

BASIC TOUR PACKAGE

\$12/person (Minimum of 15 participants)

- Approximately 1.5 hours
- Educational Tour
- Complimentary tour for tour operator and driver

BOX LUNCHEON & TOUR PACKAGE

\$24/person (Minimum of 20 participants)

- Approximately 2-2.5 hours
- Educational Tour
- Box Lunch
- Complimentary tour and box lunch for tour operator and driver

DELUXE LUNCHEON TOUR PACKAGE

\$34/person (Minimum of 30 participants)

- Approximately 2.5 -3.5 hours
- Educational Tour
- Hot Buffet Lunch
- Complimentary tour and hot buffet lunch for tour operator and driver

FOR MORE
DETAILS, CALL
651-487-8272
OR EMAIL US AT
COMOEDUCATION@
CI.STPAUL.MN.US



TOURS THROUGH TIME

WHY ZOOS MATTER Explores the evolution of zoos; from their beginnings as eclectic menageries to the conservation centers we know today. Based on a study funded by the Institute of Museums and Library Services, this program will explore the roles zoos play in connecting people to the natural world.

Program Level: High School to Adults **Cost:** \$250/program

THE HISTORY OF COMO In 1897, the City of Saint Paul fenced in a pasture to hold three deer gifted to them, thus beginning Como Zoo. The Conservatory opened in 1915 and together these two iconic destinations have rich history. Now managed as Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, millions of visitors travel to Como each year to discover and learn about about plants and animals from around the world. Take a pictorial stroll through the history of Como Park Zoo and Conservatory as we travel down memory lane.

Program Level: High School to Adults **Cost:** \$250/program



LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Although Library Programs were designed to be presented to audiences in libraries, they can be done in almost any location, for any situation! There is a 100 person limit for these interactive, story-based presentations.

Cost: \$200/program

BUG-A-WOCKY ventures into the amazing world of bugs. Children will be thrilled by a tale about a very tricky spider and a magical rock. Participants will learn the differences between insects and spiders with a dress-up activity. Finally, meet some real, live, bug visitors! Featured story: *Anansi and the Moss-covered Rock* by Eric Kimmel.

BIRD-A-WOCKY teaches about the differences between birds and other animals. Participants will be engaged with a fabulous, interactive bird story, followed by meeting a live bird. Featured story: *The Spooky Tail of Prewitt Peacock* by Bill Peet.

A JOURNEY THROUGH AFRICA takes children on a “tour” through the African desert, savanna and tropical rainforest, meeting live plants and animals from these areas along the way. Learn to count in Swahili, and explore a great folktale that originated in Africa. Featured story: *Greedy Zebra* by Mwenye Hadithi.

BANANA-WOCKY helps children explore the fascinating life cycle of bananas. Students will be captivated by a lively banana story and learn the cultural importance of “nature’s perfect fruit.” We’ll see real banana plants and meet a “banana eating animal.” Featured story: *The Boy Who Loved Bananas* by George Elliott.

RABBIT GETS CREATIVE will mesmerize children with a wise (and creative) rabbit story that explores the ins and outs of a business partnership between two very different neighbors. Children will learn the parts of a plant and also meet animal visitors common to the garden. Featured story: *Tops and Bottoms* by Janet Stevens.

FROG-A-WOCKY dives into the fabulous (and sometimes noisy) world of frogs. Students will join us as we trek through the swamp in search of the noisy, little peeper. Then we’ll make a frog “chorus” and end with meeting live animals that will help teach the difference between frogs and toads. Featured story: *Possum and the Peeper* by Anne Hunter.



POLICY INFORMATION

DEADLINES/CANCELLATIONS Registrations are taken up to 48 hours prior to the start of class or until class is full. If a class has not met the required minimum registrations 48 business hours before the class is scheduled to start, class will be canceled. Participants will be notified at that time. A full refund will be processed. Register early to ensure a spot and prevent cancellations.

CLASS DISCOUNTS Members of Como Friends receive a 10% discounted rate on Como Education classes. Member ID number, level of membership and expiration date will be required at the time of registration. For more information on Como Friends memberships, call 651-487-8229.

CONFIRMATIONS Confirmations are mailed or e-mailed for all class/program registrations. No confirmations are sent if a registration is received 48 hours or less prior to class/program start time, unless requested. Reservations for programs are commitment to payment. If, for any reason, you cancel your scheduled program(s), a \$25 administrative fee will be applied. You will be charged the full amount of the scheduled program(s) if canceled within 48 hours of the event. There is a one-time rescheduling option if requested at least 48 hours before your scheduled program(s).

REQUESTED REFUNDS Requested refunds will be issued per the following criteria:

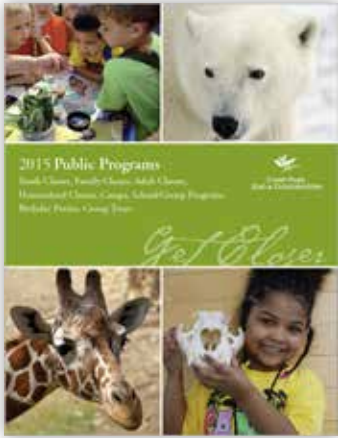
- No refunds will be issued for any single registration costing \$10.00 or less.
- Refunds are granted if requested more than 48 business hours prior to the scheduled event. An administrative fee will be withheld. Administrative fees are determined based on registration costs. An administrative fee breakdown is available on our website under Education Policies.
- No refunds will be granted for refund requests received 48 business hours or less prior to the scheduled event.
- At the time of cancellation, a one-time rescheduling option is available if requested 48 business hours prior to the scheduled event. The rescheduled class must be within the same program category as the original registration.

CLOSINGS DUE TO WEATHER Periodically, classes/programs are canceled due to inclement weather. Cancellations are based on weather reports and as determined by the program coordinator. Class participants will be contacted by phone if it is determined a class/program will be cancelled. Class participants can also call 651-487-8272 for details.



COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY 1225 ESTABROOK DRIVE SAINT PAUL, MN 55103

2015 Public Programs Catalog Inside!



TOURS?

Yes, we have group tours! See page 14 for more details.

FIELD TRIPS FOR SELF-GUIDED GROUPS

Help us Help You! By letting us know what day and time you will be visiting us, we can better serve you. Please fill out our Field Trip Form located at: www.comozooconservatory.org (click on 'Plan Your Visit,' then the 'Schools/Groups' tab) or call 651-487-8272.



COMO PARK
ZOO & CONSERVATORY



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REGISTER EARLY!

Register online at www.comozooconservatory.org and click on "Education"

Register over the phone at 651-487-8272

GOT QUESTIONS?

E-mail: comoeducation@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Call: 651-487-8272

DISCOUNTED RATES

Discounted rates are available for members of Como Friends. For more information on memberships, call 651-487-8229.

KNOW ALL THE LATEST NEWS WITH THE COMO PROMO!



Scan this code to get the Como Promo and receive the latest animal updates, program offerings, upcoming events, and more!



VISIT COMO ALL YEAR ROUND!

That's right, Como Park Zoo & Conservatory is open 365 days a year!

Winter Hours (Oct 1– Mar 31) 10am-4pm

Summer Hours (Apr 1 – Sept 30) 10am-6pm