



## Corporate Profile

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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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The Knoxville Zoo was opened in 1948 and only held one exhibit, an alligator. Today, the Knoxville Zoo has 53-acres of over 900 different animals and many exhibits featuring animals from all over the world. You'll find animals from Australia, Africa, Asia, South America, North America and even animals native to East Tennessee. Each year, over 400,000 guests visit Knoxville Zoo.

The mission of Knoxville Zoological Gardens is to celebrate the wonders of the natural world. Through education, conservation, exhibition, research and recreation, the zoo will tell the stories of the animals, the plants and the people who make up the communities of the earth. The zoo will develop positive attitudes and actions about nature and about conservation as a local and global issue.

The Knoxville Zoo is located in Knoxville, Tennessee and is owned by the city of Knoxville. However, the zoo is operated by the Knoxville Zoological Gardens Inc. The Knoxville Zoological Gardens Inc. is a non-profit corporation chartered by the state of Tennessee.

Admission prices for the Knoxville Zoo adults is \$19.95, \$15.95 for children ages 2 to 12, and children under 2 are free of charge. Senior Citizens 65 years of age or older are charged \$15.95 and parking is \$5.00 per vehicle. Tickets can be purchase on the Knoxville Zoo website, at the entrance to the Knoxville Zoo, or at Kroger. The Knoxville Zoo is open 364 days of the year from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Knoxville Zoo is closed is Christmas Day, December 25. Admission and ticket sales stop one-hour before the zoo closes.

There are many special activities in which the Knoxville Zoo offers visitors on a daily basis. One of the opportunities is known as Close Encounters of The Wild Kind. Close Encounters of the Wild Kind allows visitors to go off the beaten path to meet giraffe, penguins, or giant Aldabra tortoises. During these special encounters visitors will have the opportunity to touch or feed their new animal friend, talk with their keepers to learn all about them and take a souvenir photo of their very personal introduction.

Another very popular activity is the Knoxville Zoo's camel rides. Kids and adults can hop on the back of a camel and enjoy riding these "ships of the desert." Camel rides are a seasonal attraction, and are offered Tuesday through Sunday, weather permitting. The camel ride attraction is closed on Mondays. The cost for a camel ride is \$5.00.

Other opportunities that you can plan on your visit include birthday parties, carousel rides, keeper chats, and animal shows.

The Knoxville Zoo also holds several very popular annual events. One of these events, that has now been held for 17 years, is known as Feast With the Beasts. At this event, guests will be able to sample the most delectable foods and beverages from more than 35 area restaurants and vendors. There are always live bands to keep guests entertained as they feast. Feast with the

Beasts is open to guests 21 and older. A current photo ID must be presented at the event. Tickets include admission to the event, complimentary food and beverages and entertainment.

Another well-known event at the Knoxville Zoo is Boo! At the Zoo. The event, BOO! At the Zoo, a Halloween tradition for 25 years at the Knoxville Zoo, is a family event featuring music and games, your favorite costumed characters throughout the zoo, and the only "haunted" carousel in East Tennessee, which is known as the Scary-Go-Round.

The Knoxville Zoo offers many volunteer opportunities. Adult volunteers and youth volunteers alike, play a major role in guest relations, zoo education, special events, and many other areas of the zoo. The applications, requirements, and training information can all be found on the zoo website at [www.knoxville-zoo.org](http://www.knoxville-zoo.org).

The impact of Knoxville Zoo's capital improvements will be felt in many ways and in many areas. The zoo acts as the anchor tourist attraction for the city of Knoxville, consistently drawing a larger number of visitors than any other year-round attraction. Over the next four years, \$14 million in renovation projects will completely change the way big cats and reptiles are viewed at the zoo, and major new educational facilities will further enhance The Clayton Family Kids Cove.

As a non-profit organization, Knoxville Zoo relies on admissions, concessions, memberships, special events and philanthropic donations to sustain daily operations, which cost just over \$22,400 per day. Donations to support the Knoxville Zoo can be made on their website.

The Knoxville Zoo offers many learning opportunities for people of all ages. Educational programs include school fieldtrips, night safaris, home school Tuesdays, Bedtime with the Beasts, Kritter Kids, Zoo Camp, and internships. The zoo's education programs serve the entire East Tennessee region, as well as for educators in Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia,

and West Virginia who bring their classes on field trips to the zoo. Over 42,000 students, preschoolers and chaperones visit the zoo on class field trips annually.

Knoxville Zoo has plenty of choices for refreshments, including meals at Safari Grill, as well as specialty concessions located throughout the zoo. Strollers and wheelchairs are available for rent. Unique animal-themed gifts are available at the Zoo Shop as well as at gift stands and carts located throughout the zoo.

Knoxville Zoo memberships are available, which are good for free admission to Knoxville Zoo and free or reduced admission to over 130 zoos and aquariums across the U.S. There are many different packages for zoo membership that can be viewed on the Knoxville Zoo website. Prices for a zoo membership range from \$1000 to \$60.

For more information on becoming a zoo member, contact the Knoxville Zoo membership department at (865) 637-5331 ext. 305.

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