

# Get Closer

**2016 Public Programs**

**July- December**

*Summer Camp Offerings Inside!*

**Early Childhood, Family and Adult Classes**

**Birthday Parties and Group Tours**



**COMO PARK  
ZOO & CONSERVATORY**



## 2-YEAR-OLDS

Our program is designed to spark curiosity and appreciation for the natural world in *children age 2 with their favorite grown-up*. Each class includes art, independent playtime, group activities, story time, and live plant or animal encounters.

Cost: \$15/child.

### 1, 2, 3...Zoo!

One giraffe, two polar bears, three hedgehogs – counting at the zoo is so much fun! Join us as we play counting games, sing songs, and discover the magic of numbers. You can ‘count’ on some very special visitors to come to class.

Thursday, July 7th

9:30a-10:30a



### Zoo Stories

Nothing can stop a wild imagination! Based on favorite animal storybooks, this class will encourage your child to learn all about animals, create animal art, sing silly songs, and play entertaining games. Not a class to be missed!

Tuesday, July 19th

9:30a-10:30a

### Noisy Zoo

Feel like making some noise? Together we will bark like a sea lion, roar like a tiger, and howl like a wolf ...the zoo is a noisy place! Use your animal ears to play listening games and hear a story. Some of Como's noisy friends will pop in and make some noise in your classroom!

Thursday, August 4th

9:30a-10:30a

### Spots and Stripes

From striped zebras to dotted leaves, patterns are everywhere at the zoo and conservatory. We will learn all about patterns as we meet live plants and animals, create art, and make a patterned friend to take home.

Tuesday, August 16th

9:30a-10:30a



## 3-YEAR-OLDS

Our program is designed to spark curiosity and appreciation for the natural world in *children age 3 with their favorite grown-up*. Each class includes art, independent playtime, group activities, story time, and live plant or animal encounters.

Cost: \$15/child.

### Gardener for a Day

How does your garden grow? Get your hands dirty as we become “budding” gardeners through stories and fun, hands-on activities. Learn about garden helpers with a visit from some live animal friends.

Thursday, July 14th

9:30a-10:45a

### Summertime at Como

Learn all about how animals stay cool, or heat up, in the warm summer weather. Did you know that polar bears swim, gorillas eat popsicles, and the bison love a mud bath? Splash in our play pond, create cool mud art, and take home a yummy popsicle recipe.

Thursday, July 28th

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. One of Como's birds will even visit your classroom. You would be cuckoo to miss this class!

Thursday, August 11th

9:30a-10:45a



### Zookeeper for a Day

Imagine yourself as a zookeeper for the day! Experience the life of a zookeeper by dressing up in uniform, feeding the animals, and cleaning up some animal ‘exhibits’. Take a field trip into an exhibit before hours to see a zookeeper doing their job!

Thursday, August 25th

9:30a-10:45a





## PRESCHOOL

Our preschool program is designed to spark curiosity and appreciation for the natural world in children ages 4 and 5 with their favorite grown-up. Each class includes art, independent playtime, group activities, story time, and live plant or animal encounters.

Cost: \$15/child.



### Dinosaur Stomp

Take a journey back in time to learn about these sometimes ferocious and always fascinating creatures. Discover how the dinosaurs moved, what they looked like, and where they lived. Meet live modern day dinosaur relatives in the classroom!

Saturday, September 17th

9:00a-10:15a

### Going Batty

Bats can fly, have special hearing, and can hang upside down by their toes....Bats have superpowers! Hang out, bat style, and learn all about these magnificent mammals through games, songs, and crafts. Como's resident bats will even come for a daytime visit!

Saturday, December 3rd

9:00a-10:15a



## Lil' Explorer Free Thursdays!

Thursdays, September-April in the Visitor Center. Visit the website for more information: [www.comozooconservatory.org](http://www.comozooconservatory.org)

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



CLEAN  
WATER  
LAND &  
LEGACY  
AMENDMENT

## FAMILIES

Our family program is designed for school-aged children, kindergarten and up, and their grown-ups. These classes involve all members of the family and include unique Como experiences with live plant and animal encounters.

Cost: Starts at \$15/person. Family discounts available.

### Power of the Pollinators (New)

Explore the world of the pollinators through fun and educational hands on activities. Create a take home treat to encourage pollinators to your yard, meet a Conservatory gardener to answer all your pollinator questions, and watch the butterflies wake up during a pre-hours visit to Como's Blooming Butterflies exhibit.

Saturday, July 16th

8:30a-10:30a

### Bump in the Night

Experience Como at night and experience whoooooo-hoooooo is awake. Bump into some nocturnal plants and animals, and learn about the special adaptations needed for survival at night. Snacks and stories around a campfire will create the perfect evening out. It is sure to be a howling good time!

Saturday, August 27th

6:30p-8:30p

### Primate Potluck

Nothing sounds more fun than spending the 'prime' morning hours with some primates! Learn all about primate behaviors, habitats, and family life, as you create the perfect enrichment treats for Como's primate residents. Compare your size and shape to primates large and small, attempt fantastic feats of dexterity, and see where in the world primates live. Swing on over!

Saturday, October 8th

8:30a-10:30a

### Enrichment: From Penguins to Pugs! (New)

Join us in this exciting new class as we take a look at the importance of enrichment in the lives of animals. Meet some of Como's education animals up close and build enrichment items for them. Discover how we provide enrichment for our zoo animals large and small, and explore ideas on what you can do to create enrichment for your pets at home!

Saturday, November 12th

9:30a-11:30a





# ADULTS

Join us for an educational and entertaining program as we explore the wonders of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory and Como Zoo. Our classes take you behind-the-scenes or provide an exclusive experience within the zoo and conservatory during non-public hours.

Cost: \$15/person.

## Pollinator Gardening Workshop (New)

**\$40/person**

Come explore the magnificent world of butterflies and the plants that sustain them. Zoo staff will guide your exploration of the butterfly life cycle and the behaviors that captivate our imagination. Conservatory staff will instruct you on the basic elements needed for productive, healthy habitats in your community. Start the morning with an exclusive guided tour of Como's Blooming Butterflies exhibit before public hours and leave the workshop with six select native plants for your own garden.

**Saturday, July 9th**



**8:30a-12:30p**

## Como: An Insider's Look (New)

Who hasn't wondered what happens behind the scenes at Como? Unlock a bit of mystery as we take a tour of a zoo exhibit and the greenhouse and gardens without the crowds. Chat with a zookeeper and gardener as they work to get the zoo and conservatory ready for guests, and meet a few of Como's education animals. You will see just what happens here before public hours to make Como such a magical place!

**Saturday, August 6th**

**8:30a-10:00a**

## Japanese Gardens

Nature therapy at its finest! Explore "The Ordway Gardens – A Japanese Collection" before public hours as you dive deep into the secrets of the garden. Learn more about the fascinating history of our Japanese Garden, sneak a peek into the Ceremonial Tea House, and speak with our Japanese Garden horticulturist to discover all there is to know about this cultural sanctuary.

**Sunday, September 18th**

**8:30a-10:00a**

## Big Cat Enrichment

Spend your morning making breakfast...for our lions and tigers! Create enrichment items for our big cats and head out to the exhibit before public hours to observe the fun. Learn about the reasons behind providing enrichment, and how these items enhance our animals' lives. Explore the dangers big cats face in the wild, and what conservation efforts are taking place to protect these magnificent animals.

**Saturday, October 15th**

**8:30a-10:00a**

## Enrichment: From Tegus to Terriers! (New)

Join us in this exciting new class as we take a look at the importance of enrichment in the lives of animals. Meet some of Como's education animals up close and build enrichment items for them. Discover how we provide enrichment for our zoo animals large and small, and explore ideas on what you can do to create enrichment for your pets at home!

**Saturday, December 10th**

**9:30a-11:00a**



## CAMP COMO

**Preschool thru 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Spend some time *Monkeying Around* with your primate pals; go for the gold in *Animal Olympics*; 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 seventh grade**. Children are accepted into age-appropriate camps based on the grade they will be **entering** for the 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 a fee.

### Registration Deadlines and Cancellations

Registrations are taken up to 48 hours prior to the start of the camp or until it is full. If a camp has not met the participant minimum one week before it is scheduled to start, it will be cancelled.

**Cost:** \$130/Camp

\$150 for Behind-the-Scenes Camps\*

*\*Premium price due to increased staff involvement*

**Como Friends Members Receive a 10% Discount**

Extended Care Fee: \$10/session

Boxed Lunch Fee: \$7

# CAMP COMO

## PRESCHOOL CAMPS

Children 4 or 5 years old and *not entering Kindergarten in the fall.*

### 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, create your own African art and explore the cultures of those who live in the savannah.

**June 27-July 1** 9:00a-12:00p  
**August 8-12** 9:00a-12:00p

### Splish Splash!

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

**June 27-July 1** 1:00p-4:00p  
**August 29-September 2** 1:00p-4:00p

### Zoo Babies

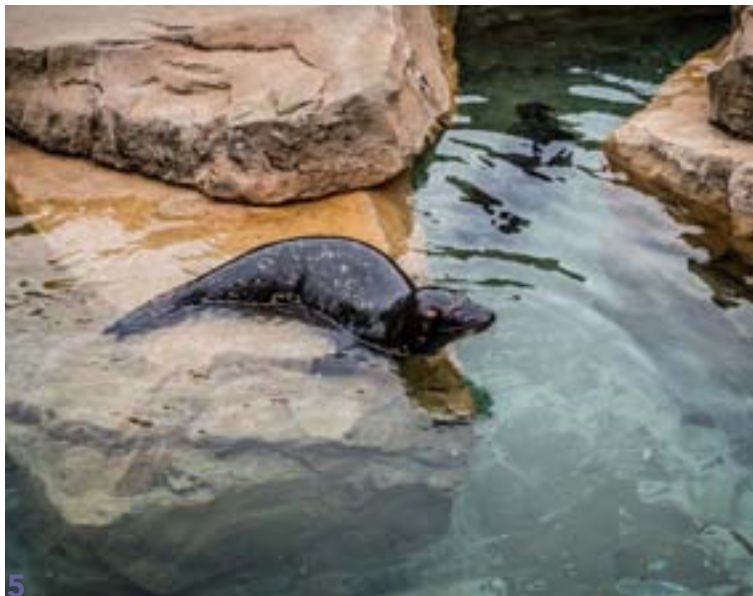
Kits, infants, calves, cubs and hatchlings - welcome to the world of zoo babies and ultimate cuteness. Play baby animal match-up and visit Como's newest arrivals to learn how animal moms and dads care for their young. Act like an animal as you play with, clean, feed, carry and teach your "zooborn" bundle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

**July 18-22** 9:00a-12:00p  
**August 29-September 2** 9:00a-12:00p

### Rainforest Rumble

Discover the fascinating tropical rainforest! Explore unique plant and animal relationships while experiencing the rhythm of the rain. Journey through Como, meeting rainforest primates, plants, birds and more!

**July 18-22** 1:00p-4:00p  
**August 8-12** 1:00p-4:00p



## K – 1st GRADE CAMPS

Children *entering Kindergarten or 1st grade in the fall.*

### 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 Como's primates and participate in the Banana Olympics as we explore the wide world of primate pals.

**June 13-17** 9:00a-12:00p  
**July 5-8** 9:00a-12:00p \*\$110 prorated  
**July 25-29** 9:00a-12:00p  
**August 15-19** 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 bugs grow, locate some "bug bandits" in the Conservatory and even bring some bugs home (don't worry, they aren't real).

**June 13-17** 1:00p-4:00p  
**July 18-22** 9:00a-12:00p  
**August 15-19** 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 27-July 1** 9:00a-12:00p  
**July 18-22** 1:00p-4:00p  
**August 8-12** 9:00a-12:00p  
**August 29-September 2** 9:00a-12:00p

### Fantastic Flyers (New)

Flap your wings and fly on over to Como for this fantastic, fun-filled camp! We'll meet a variety of nature's best flyers, from birds to bats to bugs! Conduct flight experiments, make bird feeders, play games, and other fabulous flying fun.

**June 27-July 1** 1:00p-4:00p  
**July 25-29** 1:00p-4:00p  
**August 29-September 2** 1:00p-4:00p

### Animal Engineers (New)

People aren't the only ones who build things! Many animals are excellent engineers, too. In this camp we'll meet some of Como's animal engineers and try our hand at building nests, tunnels, dams, and even art, using nature as our guide.

**July 5-8** 1:00p-4:00p \*\$110 prorated  
**August 8-12** 1:00p-4:00p





## 2nd – 3rd GRADE CAMPS

Children entering 2nd or 3rd grade in the fall.

### 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 possesses, explore the various habitats where cats live and see how cats hunt for food. Campers will make enrichment for Como's feline residents and observe first-hand each animal's unique reaction!

June 13-17	9:00a-12:00p	
July 5-8	9:00a-12:00p	*\$110 prorated
August 8-12	9:00a-12:00p	
August 29-September 2	9:00a-12:00p	

### 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 13-17	1:00p-4:00p	
July 5-8	1:00p-4:00p	*\$110 prorated
July 18-22	9:00a-12:00p	
August 1-5	9:00a-12:00p	

### 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 reptile training and feeding, and play slimy games.

June 20-24	9:00a-12:00p	
July 18-22	1:00p-4:00p	
August 1-5	1:00p-4:00p	
August 22-26	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, rainforests and more as campers take an adventure to remember.

June 20-24	1:00p-4:00p
July 11-15	1:00p-4:00p
August 15-19	1:00p-4:00p
August 29-September 2	1:00p-4:00p

### 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 foxes as they frolic in the snow.

June 27-July 1	9:00a-12:00p
July 11-15	9:00a-12:00p
July 25-29	9:00a-12:00p
August 15-19	9:00a-12:00p

### Wild Things

This wild week campers will begin in Minnesota and embark on a journey from Como Lake to Africa and South America. At each stop, campers will encounter amazing plants and animals, and construct a wild craft to take home. Passports not necessary!

June 27-July 1	1:00p-4:00p
July 25-29	1:00p-4:00p
August 8-12	1:00p-4:00p
August 22-26	1:00p-4:00p



## 4th – 5th GRADE CAMPS

Children entering 4th or 5th grade in the fall.

### 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. Campers will also meet a zookeeper and learn how zoos work towards animal conservation goals.

June 13-17	9:00a-12:00p	
July 5-8	9:00a-12:00p	*\$110 prorated
July 25-29	9:00a-12:00p	
August 15-19	9:00a-12:00p	

## Exhibit Design

Join the Exhibit Design team at Como! Spend the week investigating the needs of different plants, animals and our visitors. Explore the renovated 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 unique exhibit!

June 20-24	1:00p-4:00p	
July 5-8	1:00p-4:00p	*\$110 prorated
August 22-26	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 amazing Gorilla Forest exhibit!

June 20-24	9:00a-12:00p
July 11-15	9:00a-12:00p
August 1-5	9:00a-12:00p
August 22-26	9:00a-12:00p

## 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 13-17	1:00p-4:(
July 25-29	1:00p-4:(
August 15-19	1:00p-4:(



## Superhero Species

Discover the amazing super powers of animals and plants from around the world in this exciting 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!

July 11-15	1:00p-4:00p
August 1-5	1:00p-4:00p

## 6th – 7th GRADE CAMPS

Children entering 6th or 7th grade in the fall.

## A.B.C.: Behind the Scenes

A.B.C. = Aquatics, Bears & 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. Campers will have opportunities to 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 focuses on the Aquatic Animal Building, Polar Bear Odyssey and Cat Building.

June 20-24	9:00a-12:00p
August 1-5	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 care for aquatic animals and their environments, both saltwater and fresh. Go fishing, collect aquatic insects, and set up an aquarium. From sting rays to sea turtles, we'll see it all.

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

## 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. Campers will have opportunities to 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 focuses on the Primate Building, Hoofstock Exhibits and Tropical Encounters.

July 11-15	9:00a-12:00p
August 22-26	9:00a-12:00p

## Camp Conservation (New)

Explore the field of conservation in this new, hands-on camp. Get to know the zookeepers and horticulturists who have traveled the world and meet the species they are trying to save. Discover ways you and your friends can help endangered plants and animals, and work on a photo project that will help spread Como's conservation messages.

July 11-15	1:00p-4:00p
August 1-5	1:00p-4:00p





## 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!**



## THEMES

### 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.

**Rainforest Romp:** Meet live plants and animals from the rainforest.

**Botany and the Beast:** Meet live animals and plants which share a connection in nature.

### AGES 5+

**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, and polar bear exhibits.

**Zebras, Giraffes & Foxes, Oh My!:** Includes personal tour (public area) of zebra, giraffe, kudu, fox, bison or reindeer exhibits.

## PACKAGES

### Basic 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 under 12 months are free with a paid adult). \$5 for each additional guest.

### Party Plus Package

•Same listing as the Basic Package, plus:  
•Pizza, cake, candles, 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 under 12 months are free with a paid adult). \$7 for each additional guest.

### Add-ons

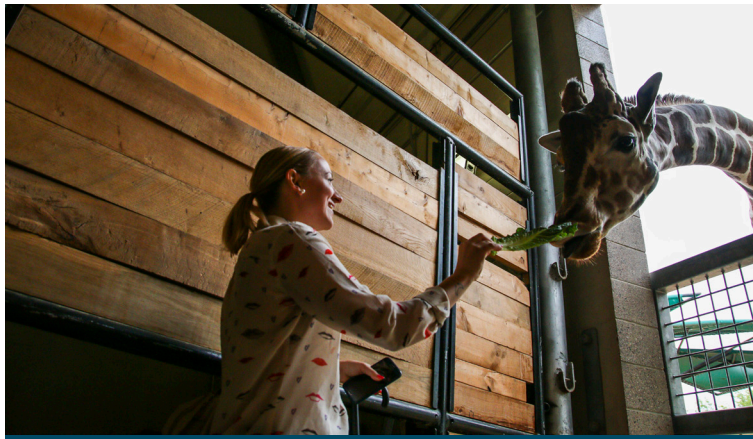
•Gift Bags – from Como's Garden Safari Gifts - \$5 each  
•Sponsor-an-Animal Certificates – Choose any animal at Como to sponsor! Certificates are personalized and include a fact sheet and picture of selected animal - \$5 each

**A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a date.**

**Como provides room decorations. Due to time constraints and the safety of our animals, additional decorations are not allowed.**







## GROUP TOURS

### ZOO TOUR

Rise and shine with Como's animals and see the zoo in a whole new light! Visit the zoo before hours and go behind-the-scenes. During your experience you'll hear stories from Como's fascinating 100 year past, make a special treat for our polar bears, come face-to-face with a hungry (and friendly) giraffe, and meet one of the many zookeepers who make Como Zoo a world class facility. Don't miss this opportunity to see the zoo wake up around you...book your tour today!

**Cost:** \$35/person (minimum 10; maximum 40 participants)

### CONSERVATORY TOUR

Travel through the many gardens of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory as you explore the Jewel of Como and learn about our rich 100 year history. Go behind-the-scenes and uncover how the horticulture staff keep the conservatory looking lush and green all year long and produce the many spectacular and beloved Sunken Garden flower shows. This tour is a unique opportunity to "peek behind the curtains" of the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory as well as get your daily dose of green!

**Cost:** \$12/person (minimum 10; maximum 60 participants)

### TOUR ADD-ONS

- Premium Box Luncheon - \$16.50/person
- Deluxe Buffet Luncheon - \$22/person
- Animal Ambassador - \$250/group

**A \$50 non-refundable deposit is required to secure a date. Tours are designed for an adult audience.**



## SCHOOL GROUPS

Enhance your students' learning by signing up for a class with Como Park Zoo and Conservatory! Bring your group to Como or we can come to you! For more information visit our website.

Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, in partnership with the Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM), offers opportunities for youth with autism. For more information about these programs or to register, please visit AuSM's website at [www.ausm.org](http://www.ausm.org) or contact AuSM at 651.647.1083.

**ausm**<sup>®</sup>  
autism society of minnesota



## REGISTRATION

Online registration [www.comozooconservatory.org](http://www.comozooconservatory.org)  
Click on EDUCATION

Call-in registration **651-487-8272**

**Como Friends Members receive a 10% discount.**  
For information on memberships, call **651-487-8229**.

Questions? E-mail: [comoeducation@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:comoeducation@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or  
call **651-487-8272**

### REGISTER EARLY!

#### Registration Deadlines and Cancellations

Registrations are taken up to 48 hours prior to the start of a class or until it is full. If a class has not met the participant minimum 48 business hours before it is scheduled to start, it will be cancelled. For more on cancellations and refunds visit our website or call

**651-487-8272.**