



International Wolf Center
Teaching the World about Wolves

Group Leader Field Guide

Preparation is the key to an enjoyable, informative experience at the International Wolf Center. Please use this guide to help you plan and prepare for your group's visit.

PROGRAMS & DISCOUNTS

Target Audience

Group visits are appropriate for all ages and learning styles. All programming is adapted to the audience needs and learning level.

Group size

- Minimum group size: Eight
- Maximum group size: None
 - However, some activities may be limited to 14-20 participants to ensure a high quality program due to travel involved or potential impact on the environment. Examples: Wolf and Wildlife Signs Hike/Snowshoe and Wolf Research Field Trip.
 - Groups with fewer than eight participants may register for group visit pricing by paying the minimum package fee for eight people.
- Pricing for group visits includes a discount from regular admission and programming fees as well as all applicable taxes.

Affiliations

We welcome all types of groups regardless of affiliation, such as elementary schools, religious groups, 4-H clubs, scouting organizations, home-school groups, colleges and universities and family reunions.

BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Your itinerary

A confirmation letter and itinerary will be emailed to you once your group visit request is processed, usually in one to three business days. By reviewing these materials, you will know what to expect and how to prepare your group.

Two to three days prior to your visit, a staff member will contact you to confirm the date and time of your visit, participant numbers, dietary restrictions and any other group visit details that will help us provide a quality experience for your group.

Each group visit is unique in activities and procedures. We ask that you read all information regarding your adventure prior to arriving. We also recommend that you forward that information on to any additional chaperones in the group.

Permission slips?

We realize that you know best what may be required from your employer for your group to participate in programming at the Center. In some cases, the Center will require a liability form for group participants. This is often the case for adult groups where travel off-site is part of the programming or when the Center will be filming or photographing the group activities.

If required for your visit, you will be emailed an electronic liability form to dispense to your group members and then return to us before your arrival.

From time to time, the Center documents group visits through photography or video for promotional and educational purposes. If anyone in your group does not want their image used please let us know in advance of your group visit.

Auditory, Visual and Mobility Assistance

If you or your group members are in need of special assistance during programming, such as language interpretation of any form or accessibility information, please contact us directly. We do request two weeks advanced notice prior to your arrival in order to locate appropriate interpreters or tools to enhance your visit.

INFORMATION TO SHARE WITH YOUR GROUP

Expectations

When you arrive, you will be greeted by an educator who will provide your group with an orientation to the Center as well as guidelines for what they can expect during their visit. Sometimes it is hard to listen when you are excited!

We realize that and ask that you share the following expectations with your group members prior to your arrival:

- Please walk at all times.
- Food and beverages are only allowed in designated areas; please ask where those are before eating/drinking.
- Please turn your flash off when taking pictures in the presence of taxidermy (stuffed) animals.
- Please provide adult chaperone supervision when exploring exhibits.
- Please share and take turns in the exhibits and during programs.
- Please put things away after using them.
- Have fun!

What to bring

Regardless of the type of program, here are a few items members of your group may want to bring along:

- Camera with extra batteries/memory cards
- Journal and pen/pencil
- Spending money for the gift shop

Weather

If you have chosen programs that include outdoor components, you will want to bring clothing that is appropriate for the outdoors. The weather in Ely is unpredictable and can change on a moment's notice.

To ensure your group has an enjoyable experience, please be sure your group is prepared for the weather. The best approach to staying warm in varying temperatures is "layering". Multiple layers of clothes allow you to take off layers as you heat up while active outside. Bringing along extra layers can also prepare you for sudden changes in weather. Wool or winter synthetic clothing will keep you dryer and warmer than cotton.

It is not uncommon for the temperature to dip below zero from December through March. A suggested packing list is available upon request. To check Ely, MN weather before your trip, visit The Weather Channel at <http://www.weather.com/weather/tenday/Ely+MN+USMN0235>.

If you are visiting during the warmer months, sunscreen and insect repellent are recommended. Sandals or flip-flop type shoes are fun for summer but are not ideal for outdoor programs. We recommend sport/hiking shoes or boots.

Meals & Snacks

The Center does not have food service available. However, if you would like to have a meal at the Center, we do have space available to share a meal. Please request using this space in advance as food and beverages are limited to specific areas of the Center due to potential rodent and insect activity that may damage fragile exhibits.

Some groups prefer to order food from local establishments. If you prefer to “order out” please bring any service-ware you will need to serve/consume the meal. For a listing of local restaurants and grocery stores, please visit the Ely Chamber of Commerce at www.ely.org.

Garbage and recycling service is available for groups having meals at the Center.

Drinking fountains are available at two locations in the Center. Alcohol is not allowed.

Smoking is allowed outside the Center’s main entrance at least 20 feet from the doors. A cigarette waste container is available.

AFTER YOUR VISIT

Evaluation

After your visit you will receive an email that will provide some suggested post-visit activities, educational resources and a link to an online group visit survey. We encourage you to complete the survey so that we may improve upon our programming. Your honest and constructive comments will ensure that future groups have a quality learning experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Online registration and special assistance questions:

Contact Kirstin Nephew at knephew@wolf.org or 218.365.4695 extension 125

Scheduling and program content questions:

Contact Jess Edberg at groupvisits@wolf.org or 218.365.4695 extension 128

Thank you for your interest in wolves. We look forward to your visit!