

The Minnesota Zoo

Located in Apple Valley, Minnesota, The Minnesota Zoo opened to the public in May 1978. Introducing guesting to all kinds of animals from around the globe, the zoo is home to more than 4,700 animals, with 505 of those species in award-winning exhibits. The zoo, once called the “New Zoo”, began with 1,200 animals representing 238 species, has more than doubled in the animal collection, and has become a worldwide leader in conservation.

Animals

- The zoo is home to 4,700 animals.
- There are 76 threatened and endangered species.
- Three Amur tiger cubs were born in 2022.
- There are 495 different global species.

Education

- There were 6,629 students who attended the summer Zoo Camp.
- Free admission for field trips is provided, including more than 10,000 students’ lunches and transportation.
- The zoo is the state’s largest environmental learning center with over 360,000 participants and 83,000 school program participants.
- More than 51,000 people in 41 Minnesota counties were presented with live animal programs.

People

- There are 31,879 household zoo memberships.
- There are 11,397 household donors.
- There are 208,820 interactions between guests and volunteers.
- Volunteers gave \$338,883 in donations.

History

- Local conservationists began lobbying for a new zoo facility that would feature species native to Minnesota and animals in outdoor exhibits and naturalistic settings in the 1960s.
- In 1981, the zoo was featured on the cover of Smithsonian Magazine for its innovative design of wildlife in nature-imitating settings.
- In 1995, The School for Environmental Education opened as a high school allowing students to focus on science-related curriculum.
- In 2000, the Wells Fargo Family Farm opened providing guests to investigate the life of working on a real family farm.

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