

The Minnesota Zoo

Historical fact sheet | FY2019 and FY2022 figures, labeled below

The Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley opened on May 22, 1978, with 1,200 animals representing 238 species. Its exhibits introduce guests to wildlife from around the world. In fiscal year 2022, the zoo reported 4,700 animals representing 495 species. [1, 3]

Animals | Fiscal year 2022 [1]

- 4,700 animals representing 495 species.
- 76 threatened and endangered species.
- Three endangered Amur tiger cubs born during the reporting year.

Education | Fiscal year 2019 [2]

- 6,629 students attended summer Zoo Camp.
- More than 10,000 students received free field-trip admission, transportation and lunch.
- Educational programs served more than 360,000 participants, including 83,000 school-program participants.
- Live-animal programs reached more than 51,000 people across 41 Minnesota counties.

People | Fiscal year 2022 [1]

- 31,879 household memberships and 11,397 household donors.
- 208,820 interactions between volunteers and guests.
- Volunteer time was valued at \$338,883. This is donated time, not cash donations.

History [3]

- 1960s: Conservationists advocated for a zoo with outdoor exhibits and naturalistic habitats.
- 1981: Smithsonian magazine featured the zoo's exhibit design on its cover.
- 1995: The School for Environmental Education opened at the zoo.
- 2000: The Wells Fargo Family Farm opened to introduce guests to a working family farm.

Sources and context

[1] Minnesota Zoo Foundation, FY2022 Impact Report (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022).

[2] Minnesota Zoo, 2019 At a Glance (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019).

[3] Minnesota Zoo, History & Timeline.

Academic sample by Riley McDermott. Historical figures are not current operating statistics. Original assignment date is not recorded; sources and copy were checked in September 2026.