

Virginia Zoo-Zoo Snooze

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Zoo Snooze Info:

<http://www.virginiazoo.org/plan-an-event/zoo-snoozes.asp>

Our Daisy Troop #1052 (age 6) spent the night at the Norfolk Zoo in November 2012. You are housed in one of the learning classrooms near the main gate. They lock the parking lot gates securing you in so you are safe. You meet in the parking lot at 6pm the evening of your snooze (all girls eat dinner at home first).

You have to provide your own air mattresses, sleeping bags and pillows. You begin with a safety briefing and learning the rules. Everything you do this evening revolves around the "Three Cheers for Animals" journey. You do not need to purchase your journey patches ahead of time because they are already included in the price of the zoo snooze.

At the end of the program the girls receive some of their journey patch set. The rest of the patches not earned are given to the leader to continue working on at meetings.

Our zoo employee then had the girls work on a large mural. We learned firsthand about a snake, chinchilla and owl as the zoo employee brought each of these live animals in the room for us to touch and or look at up close. The girls LOVED this. Then the girls learned about all the different jobs at the zoo from biologist, to zoo keeper, to veterinarian. They all got to dress up with supplied uniforms and then had to get up in groups and tell us what they did through a question and answer.

Next the girls, took a nice walk all around the zoo grounds with their flashlights and went and visited many of the animals at night (including the orangutans and siamang and their new baby).

In the morning, the zoo provided breakfast for us: cereals, juices, coffee, donuts). We took another walk around the zoo before it was opened to the public and had a one-of-a-kind chance to feed the Tapirs their breakfast in their indoor enclosures. Each girl had a chance to feed them some pieces of fruits and vegetables.

The leader has a choice to buy a Zoo Snooze fun patch at \$3.00 each for the girls. I cannot comment on what patch programs they do for the other troop levels, but for daisies this is such a wonderful opportunity that will forever be in our memories as a highlight of Girl Scouts.

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