

Sleepover Information Sheet

This unique experience combines astronomy by night and animals by day. We are certain that your students will be talking about this sleepover for a long time! Below is all the information you need about this experience. Please read it carefully and contact the Hamilton Zoo Education team if you have any further questions. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Who is it for?

- Primary and secondary school groups only.
- Min of 20 people, including adults and children. Max 45 people in total.

Where is it held?

The sleepover is at the Hamilton Observatory, located next to Hamilton Zoo, 183 Brymer Road, Hamilton.

Facilities at Hamilton Observatory are basic; these include unisex toilets and a small kitchen unit, but **no showers**. Children and adults all sleep in the same area on a carpeted floor. There are two spaces which can be used – entrance foyer and meeting room. **Mattresses are not supplied**. Parking is available in the Zoo carpark.

The experience

- Arrival at the observatory is at 7pm. The Zoo Educator and staff from the Astronomical Society will welcome you. The observatory experience includes a presentation by Astronomical Society staff, illustrated with slides of planets, comets, galaxies and more. This session can be designed to meet the learning needs of your students.
- Weather permitting, the students will have an opportunity to view the night sky through the telescopes.
- The Astronomical Society staff will stay overnight with you.
- 7am-8am: Breakfast and pack up. Students can also use the bathrooms at the zoo.
- 8:30am: Classroom based session as per the learning objectives noted on your booking form. After this session, students are given a short tour by the Educator.
- 9:30am: The zoo is open to public. The rest of the day can be spent enjoying the zoo at your own pace. We recommend you include the free 'Meet the Keeper' talks.

Meals

- Breakfast: included in the sleepover experience. When you book, we will send you a breakfast form to fill out on which you can choose the kinds of breakfast you would like available and let us know about any dietary requirements. Please ensure you return this to us no later than a week before your trip.
- Dinner: Eat prior to arrival at the observatory. No dinner or supper is provided.
- Lunch: Self-catering.

What do you need to bring?

- Bedding
- Sleeping mats, stretchers and any other sleeping gear.
- Appropriate clothing. It can be quite cold at night, even in summer, so please ensure you have jumpers/long trousers.
- Toiletries and medications.
- Dinner, or a plan for dinner.
- Lunch for the following day
- The group leader will need a list of all attendees and their emergency contacts.
- You will need to provide the zoo with your accurate numbers and the year group breakdowns in the morning, so please ensure you have that info when you go over.
- One large torch for the group to use.

Fees and charges

Sleepover: Per Person \$50 (includes GST)

Includes:

- Observatory experience: education session, one night's accommodation at Hamilton Observatory.
- Zoo experience: zoo admission, education session, breakfast, mini-tour with zoo educator.

Prices are subject to change.

Booking requirements

- Complete the sleepover booking form.
- Final numbers must be provided to Hamilton Zoo one week prior to your sleepover, along with your breakfast form.
- Accurate numbers to be confirmed, along with a breakdown of year groups, on the morning of your zoo visit.

Cancellation

If you wish to cancel please do so at least one week beforehand.

Planning your visit

The education team can help you organise your sleepover. When filling out the booking form we ask you to fill out the focus for both the observatory experience and the zoo experience. We are more than happy to assist you with these and may have resources that can help your planning.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Staff at Astronomical Society and Hamilton Zoo will make every effort to reduce the risk while you are onsite and supply instruction on safe practices and make participants aware of the level of potential risk in each activity. However, all activities require a shared responsibility.

Prior to visiting you must:

- Advise Hamilton Zoo staff of any medical conditions that may affect group member's participation.
- Confirm final numbers and any dietary requirements one week prior.
- Ensure there is adequate supervision for students.

Group leader(s):

- are in charge of the supervision of children in their group and will also need to assist in the general running of the sleepover;
- must ensure that all group members are carrying any essential medication;
- must ensure that all group members are wearing appropriate clothing and footwear; and
- are responsible for supplying parents or guardians with an after-hours emergency contact number.

All group members are expected to:

- keep within designated areas and behave in an acceptable manner;
- comply with rules as outlined by Astronomical Society staff and Zoo Educator (Those not complying with the rules or safety guidelines may be asked to leave)
- leave the premises in a clean, safe and tidy condition to the complete satisfaction of the Astronomical Society staff.

Alcohol or illegal drugs are not permitted on the premises by any member of the group. Or anything illegal or dangerous in nature which could cause damage to the Astronomical Society's and Hamilton Zoo buildings or other facilities, or affect the health and safety of any person or animal on the premises.