



## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### **How many people does the room hold?**

The Fire Marshall has determined that 48 visitors can fit comfortably with tables and chairs set up. It is illegal (and unsafe) for us to have more than 48 people in that space.

### **My child has 22 children in his class and we'd like to invite them all. Can we?**

Sure! While the party fee is for 20 children, we can accommodate more guests at a rate of \$10 per child. We set up tables with chairs for 20 kids, and we count the participants as the children that sit at the tables for activities. We have extra seating around the room for parents/siblings. While we allow for a few extra children, we do have a limit of 25 children total with the party. Many of our activities and crafts will not work with more than 25 kids.

### **I'd like to come early to decorate. When can I get into the room?**

Because we book multiple parties in one day, we have to limit set-up time to the 30 minutes prior to the start time of the party. We DO NOT allow families to enter the room any earlier than that to allow the birthday party host time to set up the room and prepare for activities. If you arrive more than 30 minutes ahead of your scheduled party time, you will be asked to wait before entering the party room. Likewise, we provide 30 minutes after the party ends for clean-up. Failure to be out of the room within that 30-minute limit will result in a \$50 rental fee.

### **What decorations can I bring?**

We decorate the tables with themed centerpieces and place themed signs around the room. This includes a personalized sign for the birthday child. You can even keep the personalized signs as a souvenir, if you like! If you have specific decorations, you are welcome to bring them. The only items NOT allowed are balloons, glitter, piñatas, and confetti. These items are prohibited due to the danger to wildlife and difficulty for cleaning.

### **Where do I park?**

Weekends at Ijams Nature Center are incredibly busy, especially when the weather is nice. You and your guests may be required to park in our overflow parking lots across the street from the main Visitor Center lot. Additional parking is also available at the Ijams Quarries, which is a 10-minute walk up the Greenway to the Visitor Center. If you have small children, elderly guests, or guests with mobility challenges, you may want to arrange to have them dropped off at the center prior to parking.

### **What if I have a lot of stuff to unload?**

If you need to unload, you can pull your vehicle onto the Visitor Center plaza to the front door for a short period of time. After unloading, please park your vehicle in one of the parking lots prior to the start of the party to allow other visitors easy access to the Visitor Center. Please notify the front desk or your birthday party host prior to pulling your car up to the entrance so that they can assist if necessary.

### **What if it rains?**

Nature is fickle and we have had parties during inclement weather conditions. Although we do have indoor alternatives for activities, we will typically still go outside in the event of light rain. If the weather prevents any outdoor activities we can also offer a second animal presentation in lieu of the outdoor adventure.



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### **Can we request a specific animal?**

We try to take requests for specific animals whenever possible. Please be aware, however, that there are factors that might prohibit use of our animals. Illness and other health concerns do prevent us from using certain animals from time to time.

### **Why are there only two time slots available?**

We have selected these time slots because it allows us to comfortably do two parties each day during regular business hours. Moving party times prohibits Birthday Party Staff from being able to clean up and set up between parties.

### **Can we do other themes?**

The themes we have selected are based on popularity and appropriateness for our site. We design custom graphics and table decorations to go along with each theme. You are welcome to do another theme, but you will be responsible for decorations. We cannot customize party activities to accommodate themes other than those offered.

### **Can we bring food?**

Absolutely! Most families bring cupcakes and/or a birthday cake, in addition to some light snacks. We do not have kitchen space available, so please plan accordingly. If you want to bring ice cream, we suggest the individual ice cream cups stored in a cooler. Hot items should be brought in insulated carriers since we do not have microwaves or ovens for public use.

### **Not all our guests are the same age. Will that work?**

Most of the time our programs are suitable for a variety of ages. There are topics, however, that work better for certain ages and we're happy to make recommendations on the age-appropriateness of the different themes.

