

**I am going to**



**Southwick's Zoo**

**Social Story**

# Welcome to Southwick's Zoo!

**I will be going to Southwick's Zoo for the day!**

**Once we park, I will go to the front gate. There may be a line but I will wait with my family or school until it is our turn to enter.**

**We will need tickets to enter. Tickets can be purchased at the gate or online. Everyone in my group will need a ticket to get into the zoo.**

# Follow the Rules

- 1. I will follow the rules to keep me and the animals at the zoo safe.**
- 2. I will only walk on the paths, use my quiet voice, and respect the animals.**
- 3. I will stay with my family or group while visiting the zoo. If I get separated from my group, I can ask a zoo staff member for help.**
- 4. Staff members will be wearing shirts with the Southwick's Zoo logo on them.**

# Sensory Bags

**If I am feeling overwhelmed I can go to the front gate for a sensory bag.**

**Includes: ID badge/sticker, lanyard, noise cancelling headphones, sunglasses, water timer, squishy toy, gripstick, and a copy of the social story booklet.**

# Please Bee Careful!



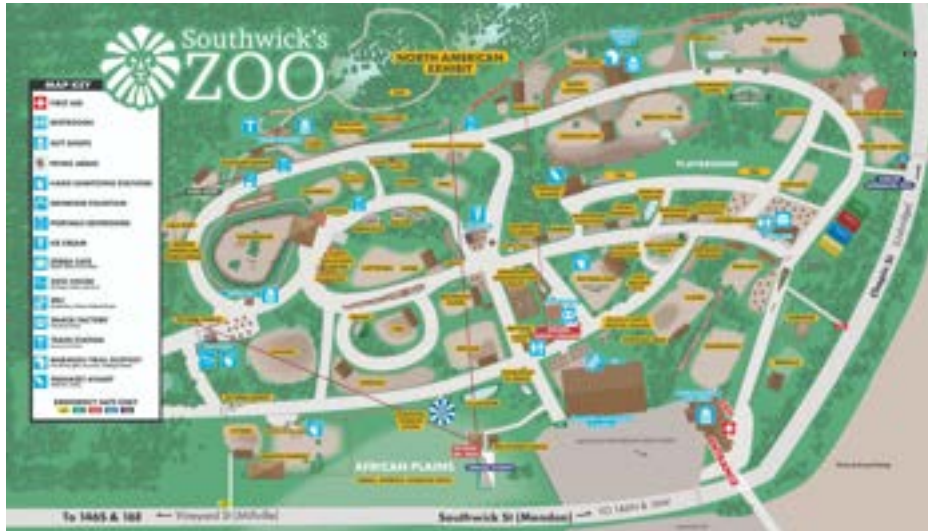
**Southwick's Zoo is home to many animals and sometimes seasonal visitors make their way here too!**

**Bee careful as you encounter some of the Yellow Jackets visiting the zoo.**

**The Yellow Jackets are searching for sweets and meat, anything I can do to reduce their access to food will deter them from bothering me. Some tips for being careful around the bees are:**

- **Take food outside of its packaging just before you eat it and throw away any unwanted food in a sealed container.**
- **Keep garbage bags closed.**
- **Cover glasses or cans when you aren't drinking from them.**

# Map of Southwick's Zoo



**I can get a map of Southwick's Zoo at the entrance. I can also scan a QR code and have the map on my phone.**

**The map will show me where to find: bathrooms, dining areas, gift shops, animals, or anything else I will need to find when visiting. There are also signs that point to where these things are along the paths.**

# Food at Southwick's Zoo

**There are many places I can buy food at Southwick's Zoo.**

**The Deli has great sandwich and salad options.**

**Zebra Cafe has burgers, chicken, and fries.**

**Galliford's Restaurant is a great place to eat at Southwick's Zoo and has a variety of foods to choose from. This might be my best option if there is a lot of foods I can't eat!**



# Animals



**I will see a lot of different animals when I visit the zoo. I can read about the different animals I will see on Southwick's Zoos website.**

**They will be behind a fence or glass and I can wave and smile to say hello. Some animals may be playing somewhere I can't see them, that's okay and if i want to try again i can come back later.**

**Some animals may be smelly and some animals may make a lot of noise! If i am ever overwhelmed by an animal, i can move on to the next!**



# Lions

**One of the animals that may make some noise is the lion.**

**The lions do not roar all the time, but when they do it is to let other animals know that this is their home.**

**The lion at Southwick's Zoo is LJ. LJ the lion normally roars early in the morning and late in the afternoon when the zoo is closing.**



# Lemurs



**There are 3 Lemur exhibits at the zoo; The Ring Tailed Lemurs, Red Ruffed Lemurs, and Black and White Lemurs.**

**Just like the Gibbons, our lemurs may be loud when they communicate with each other.**

**Ring Tailed Lemurs may sound like a high pitch howl. The Red Ruffed Lemur and Black and White Lemur sound more like a loud croaking frog.**

**The Lemurs are talking to each other by making these noises and will be quiet in a minute or less.**

# Gibbons/Siamang

**Another animal that may be noisy are the Gibbons.**

**There are 3 exhibits with Gibbons at the zoo. There are White Handed Gibbons and Siamang.**

**The Gibbons do a lot of swinging with their long arms. Gibbons also make whooping noises to communicate.**

**They may whoop quietly to each other or loudly to Gibbon exhibits across the zoo. The whooping is like a song they sing together!**



# Peacocks



**Southwick's Zoo has two free roaming Peacocks. They are safe and will not bother me.**

**The Peacocks do not like to be touched or chased but I can look at them and their beautiful feathers!**

# Petting Zoo

**The Petting Zoo is an area I can touch and feed the goats. While in the petting zoo I will have to follow the rules to keep me and the animals safe!**

**FUN rules for the petting zoo:**

- **Be gentle with the goats and don't try to pick them up. They enjoy a gentle pet on the back.**
- **Only feed the adult goats. They will have**

**I can get food for the animals from the dispenser located in the petting zoo. I will need \$0.50 to buy food.**

# Deer Forest



**The deer forest is an area i can feed the deer.**

**I can feed the deers if i bring quarters and buy corn from the dispenser.**

**The deer will eat the corn from my palm if I am calm enough. If i am not comfortable with the deer eating from my palm, i can throw the corn on the ground in front of me and watch them eat it!**

**I should not throw corn at the deer or chase them.**

# Parakeet Aviary

**The parakeet aviary is a fun place I can go to get a closer look at the parakeets!**

**I will follow the rules of the aviary for my safety and the birds.**

## **Rules of parakeet aviary**

- 1. Stay on the walkway**
- 2. Walk slowly and calmly**
- 3. Please do not touch, grab, or pet the birds. Let them come to you!**

**If I want to feed the parakeets, I will need cash to buy a feed stick for \$1.**



# Gift Shops



**I may be able to buy something if I have money with me. It is okay if I don't buy anything.**

**The gift shops may be crowded, if it gets overwhelming I can leave and try to come back at a calmer time.**



# Time to Leave!

**When it is time to leave the zoo, I will walk with my family or group to the exit gate and to the car.**

**I had a great day at Southwick's Zoo and hopefully can come again another day!**