Dear Chaperones:

Welcome to the Oregon Zoo! Thank you for helping to make this field trip a success. As a chaperone, please remember the following:

• **Demonstrate appropriate behavior.** Students learn by copying your behavior. Modeling appropriate behavior and attitude is the most powerful type of teaching.

• **Keep the group together.** Your entire group should always be together — regardless of age and independence.

• **Encourage curiosity and exploration.** Help students learn and explore by asking questions that keep them involved; responding positively to their answers and ideas; and encouraging them to learn by observing.

• **Keep students focused.** Make sure students are participating in activities, and gently redirect them if they are having trouble focusing.

• **Keep our animals safe.** Remind students not to bang on the glass, yell at the animals, or throw things into the exhibit.

• **Respect the zoo grounds.** Make sure students don’t litter, write on walls, climb on exhibits or do anything else that may damage property.

• **Respect other visitors.** Remind students that they will be sharing the zoo with many other people. Please take turns watching the animals, keep voices low and walk rather than run.

Lost Students

In the event that students are separated from your group, please notify a uniformed zoo employee wearing a nametag. Children should be instructed to do this as well.

Please have a complete clothing and appearance description of the lost child(ren). Lost children will be taken to the zoo’s main office at the front of the zoo. Inquire there for lost and found items as well.

Recycling Stations

The zoo is strongly committed to recycling. On-grounds recycling stations are available for aluminum cans, juice bottles and glass containers. You can help the zoo save wildlife habitat by recycling these items whenever possible.

Gift stores

Students must be accompanied in the gift stores. Students without chaperones will be asked to leave.

First Aid

First Aid stations are located in the AfriCafe, the zoo’s Main Office and the Administration Building. Contact any uniformed employee for assistance.
Students in my group:
1. ______________________________________  
2. ______________________________________  
3. ______________________________________  
4. ______________________________________  
5. ______________________________________  
6. ______________________________________  

We will meet for LUNCH at:  
______________ am/pm  
at: _____________________________________  

We will meet to get on the BUS at:  
______________ am/pm  
at: _____________________________________
Fur, Feathers, and Scales

Animals come in a variety of colors and textures. They are covered with fur, feathers, skin, and scales. An animal’s body covering helps it to survive and is one of the ways you can tell different groups of animals apart. For example:

- Fish have moist scales
- Birds have feathers
- Amphibians have moist skin
- Mammals have fur or hair (even though sometimes just a little bit)
- Reptiles have dry scales (unless they spend time in water)

As you walk around the zoo, take a close look at the animals and see what they are “wearing.” Use the questions in bold and corresponding answers to help guide your discussions.

Salmon

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

Look carefully. Do the salmon have fur, feathers, or scales? How do scales help salmon survive?

Most fish, including salmon, have a layer of scales covering their skin. Scales are small, hard plates, like fingernails, that cover the body for protection. The scales overlap to form a flexible armor plating to protect from predators and bruising.

Steller Sea Lions

STELLER COVE

Sea lions swim in the water. Do they have scales, feathers, or fur? Does this make them a fish, reptile, bird or mammal? Can you think of other mammals that spend a lot of time in the water?

Sea lions have fur. It is very short and close together — so close that it almost looks like smooth skin.

Sea lions are mammals. Many mammals spend time in the water; polar bears, otters, beavers, and seals take frequent swims. Totally aquatic mammals include manatees, whales, and dolphins. All of these animals — including whales — have hair or fur.
**Amur Tiger**

**BIG CATS**

*Are tigers mammals, reptiles, or birds? What body covering do they have that makes you think that?*

Tigers are mammals. They are covered with fur. Even their whiskers are hair. Cat whiskers are very sensitive. When tigers are walking they bring their whiskers forward to increase their sensitivity. As a tiger goes near an object, changes in air pressure will be noticed by the whiskers and the tiger will move out of the way.

**Penguins**

**PACIFIC SHORES**

*Are penguins mammals, birds, fish, or reptiles? What type of body covering do they have? How might their feathers be different than those of birds that fly?*

Penguins are birds. Like other birds, they have feathers covering their body. Penguin feathers are different from other birds’. Their feathers are so small and close together; they repel water to keep the penguin’s skin warm and dry.

**Turtles**

**AMAZON FLOODED FOREST**

*What type of body covering do turtles have? What kind of animal are they — bird, mammal, reptile, or fish? How are their scales different from the ones found on salmon?*

Turtles are reptiles; their entire body is covered with scales. The outer layer of a turtle’s shell is covered by horny scales called scutes (pronounced scoots).

The waterproof scales covering their bodies are one of the features that make life on land possible for reptiles. The bodies of reptiles are not wet and slimy like the bodies of fish or amphibians.

**Elephants**

**ASIAN ELEPHANTS**

*Look closely. Do elephants have hair? Where is this hair located? How does the lack of hair help an elephant survive?*

All elephants have at least a little hair. You can usually see it on their heads, chins and the tips of their tails. Scientists think the lack of hair helps elephants keep them cool when it is warm outside.
**Hippopotamus**  
AFRICA SAVANNA  
**Look carefully. Can you see the hair on the hippos?** Since they live where it is very hot and sunny, what might they do to keep their skin from getting sunburned (since they don’t have much hair to protect them)?  
Hippos are like elephants. They have a few short hairs on their body. Since they don’t have hair to protect them from the sun, they spend lots of the day in the water. Their skin produces an oily liquid that helps protect them from the sun. At night, after the sun goes down, hippos come out of the water to eat grass that grows along the rivers.

**Giraffes**  
AFRICA SAVANNA  
**Look at the giraffes’ fur.** Do you think they live where it is hot or cold? Why do you think that?  
Giraffe fur is very short. They live where it can get very hot. Their hair is not thick enough to protect them from cold weather.

**Crocodiles**  
AFRICA RAINFOREST  
**Look at the crocodiles.** What type of body covering do they have? Does this make them a bird, reptile, fish, or mammal? Do all the scales look the same? Why do you think they are different?  
Crocodiles are reptiles. Like other reptiles, crocodiles have scales covering their body. Not all the scales are the same. Crocodiles have soft scales on their undersides and hard bony scales on their backs and tails for protection. This makes them look like they are wearing armor.

**Colobus Monkeys**  
AFRICA RAINFOREST  
**Look at the colobus monkeys.** How might their long hair be helpful for living in the tropical rainforest?  
Even though their hair is very long, it is beneficial. Colobus monkeys live where it rains a lot. Their long hair works like a raincoat to help shed the rain.