

Teaching Safari Session Itinerary

This Summer, our safari begins with a two-day expedition focused on Brookfield Zoo Chicago's *Great Bear Wilderness*, inhabited by brown bears, polar bears, bison, and the bald eagle! As you learn about these amazing animals, you will explore a variety of inquiry-based, student-centered teaching strategies that you can apply in your classroom across subject areas.

Teachers will also participate in a new onsite, two-day "Seven Seas and Sky" adventure combining educator professional development to support student learning with the exploration of *Seven Seas*, our new *North American Prairie Aviary* and other animal habitats throughout the Zoo.

**Note: Itinerary may change subject to weather conditions, animal care needs, and habitat availability.*

ONSITE DAYS 1 & 2

Great Bear Wilderness Expedition

Two full days at Brookfield Zoo Chicago:

Day 1

- Introduction: What Is Conservation Leadership? Developing Conceptual Understanding Through Equity-Based, Student-Centered Teaching
- Observing Bears as Phenomena: A Gateway to Inquiry and Problem-Based Learning

Day 2

- Brown Bear "Food for Thought": Sensemaking with Mathematical Data and Scientific Models
- A Habitat for Bears in The Human Heart: Exploring Diverse Perspectives Through Art and Empathy

ONSITE DAYS 3 & 4

Seven Seas & Sky Expedition

Two more full days at Brookfield Zoo Chicago:

Day 3

- Clicks, Whistles & Soundwaves: Exploring Dolphin Adaptations through Strategies that Promote Sensemaking
- "Dolphin Tales" from Sarasota Dolphin Research Program: Understanding Dolphin Communities & Conservation Challenges through Student-Centered Investigations & Multidisciplinary Connections

Day 4

- Bird-Watching at the Zoo: Understanding Structure & Function Through Collaboration, Observation & Engineering Challenges
- Exploring Bird Behavior and Learning Behavior with Ethograms
- Conclusion and Reflection

		Grades K-5 Cohort June 17 to August 1, 2025	Grades 6-12 Cohort June 25 to August 8, 2024	
GREAT BEAR WILDERNESS Expedition <i>at Brookfield Zoo Chicago</i>	Day 1	Tuesday, June 17, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	Wednesday, June 25, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	6 PD hours
	Day 2	Wednesday June 18, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	Thursday, June 26, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	6 PD hours
Online "Check-in" Meeting <i>via Zoom</i>		Tuesday, June 24, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Tuesday, July 1, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Supports Independent Learning
Draft Lesson Plan Due Date		Monday, June 30, 2025	Wednesday, July 9, 2025	
SEVEN SEAS & SKY Expedition <i>at Brookfield Zoo Chicago</i>	Day 3	Tuesday, July 15, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	Wednesday, July 23, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	6 PD hours
	Day 4	Wednesday, July 16, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	Thursday, July 24, 2025 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Lunch included	6 PD hours
Revised Lesson Plan		Monday, July 28, 2025	Monday, August 4, 2025	
Concept Map Reflection		Monday, July 28, 2025	Monday, August 4, 2025	
Final Meeting/Reflection <i>via Zoom</i>		Friday, August 1, 2025 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Friday, August 8, 2025 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Supports Reflection
Independent Learning		Reflection Assignment (3 PD hours) + Annotated Lesson Plan and Revisions (8 PD hours)		11 PD hours

Each cohort totals 35 PD hours or 2 semester hours graduate credit

Attendance at all sessions and completion of all assignments is required to receive graduate credit hours, PD hours, certificate, or Zoo passes. No partial credit is available for this course.