

Field Trips to Mission:Wolf

Field Trips, Group Visits and Community Service Projects

Mission:Wolf welcomes school field trips, camp-outs and club or group visits. A staff volunteer is available year round to offer group tours of the refuge. In an effort to balance the need between providing the resident wolves a sanctuary and people a nature experience we have located the refuge far from paved roads. It is each group's responsibility to provide their own transportation and to come prepared for mountain weather conditions. Bring warm clothes and shoes, hat, gloves, sunglasses. Cameras are welcome. Come prepared with food, drink and snacks.

Helpful Hints for Field Trips and Camp-Outs at the Mission:Wolf Refuge

- Size of group:** Due to the timid nature of wolves we suggest groups be limited to a maximum of **twenty people**. Larger groups up to forty people can be accommodated but wolf viewing opportunities may be limited.
- Age:** The refuge is open to all ages. However experience has demonstrated that children under the age of six years have a hard time understanding the difference between wolf and dog, thus they tend to laugh, run, yell and playfully tease the wolves. They also distract and may prevent other students from seeing the wolves. For this reason we recommend all visitors be at least **six years** old. All children and students are to be attended by an adult or teacher at all times.
- Length of Visit:** It is up to each groups individual level and interest. A **two hour** visit will allow a M:W staff to present a one hour tour and allow an hour for students to explore the visitor building, ask questions and observe the wolves. A **full day** visit may allow for a longer tour in the morning and a community service project in the afternoon. A visit with an ambassador wolf will be offered when possible.
- Transportation:** The refuge is located up 14 miles of dirt road at an elevation of 9300'. The roads are dry and passable 90% of the year in a two-wheel drive bus or van. However if your visits coincides with a rain or snowstorm the roads may be muddy and slick. Day visits in school busses often result in more travel time than wolf time. For this reason we suggest day field trip groups use vans which can travel up the mountains roads much faster and easier.
- Service Projects:** The wolf refuge operates on 100% volunteer effort. This means that any group of students may participate in refuge projects. These may range from feeding wolves and building fences to sorting building materials or landscaping. The refuge will provide as many tools and resources as possible to support the project. We suggest groups bring their own work gloves if possible. A visit with an ambassador wolf is offered to groups at the completion of their project when possible.
- Camping:** For the best experience we suggest groups arrive in the afternoon, set up camp and enjoy a brief orientation to the refuge. In the morning a tour of the refuge is offered and plenty of wolf observation time. After lunch groups may participate in a community service project.
The refuge is primitive and supports a small community camping area with a campfire pit, two picnic tables and a limited amount of spring water. A community outhouse is provided. All visitors must provide transportation, food, drink, sleeping bag, tent and warm clothes.
- Cost:** We simply ask that all groups take care of themselves, do not place a burden on the volunteer staff or wolves and they are welcome to visit for **free**. Donations are accepted and we often encourage groups to help feed a wolf by becoming a wolf caretaker at the \$100 level.