



EXPECTATIONS AND SEQUENCING SUPPORTS

ZooTampa has teamed up with the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at the University of South Florida to provide support and assistance to optimize the potential of people who are neurodiverse. We also recognize Autism Shifts, The Learning Academy, Autism Speaks, and the Diversity Action Coalition and applaud their efforts to promote inclusive experiences.

Sensory Key



There are lots of things to see here. It might be bright or hurt my eyes in places where I see this. I can wear sunglasses or cover my eyes.



There are lots of things to hear here. It might be loud in places where I see this. I can wear headphones or cover my ears if it gets too loud.



When I see this, there will be things I can taste here. I do not have to put anything in my mouth if I do not want to.



There might be a strong smell in places where I see this. I can hold my nose or cover my nose with something that smells good.



There are lots of things to touch here. There might be things that I feel uncomfortable touching when I see this. I do not have to touch anything that I do not want to.

Night Event Sensory Key



There are lots of things to see here. It might be bright or hurt my eyes in places where I see this. I can wear sunglasses or cover my eyes.



There are lots of things to hear here. It might be loud in places where I see this. I can wear headphones or cover my ears if it gets too loud.



There might be a strong smell and fog in places where I see this. I can hold my nose or cover my nose with something that smells good.

Christmas in the Wild evening event has different expectations than visiting the zoo during the day.

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- ☐ Lights
- ☐ Blinking lights
- ☐ Strobe lights
- ☐ Dark
- ☐ Loud music
- ☐ Loud sounds
- ☐ Adult actors dressed up in costumes
- ☐ Not all rides are available
- ☐ Water fountains are turned off



Creatures of the Night evening event has different expectations than visiting the zoo during the day.

	FOG	Bubble Snow	LIGHTS	STROBE LIGHTS	DARK	LOUD MUSIC	LIVE ACTORS DRESSED UP
Jingle Bell Circle	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
North Pole Lane*	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Caribbean Christmas	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Candy Cane Carousel	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Realm of the Nutcracker	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ticky Tacky Christmas	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Gingerbread Jubilee	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ice Cavern	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Illuminate	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Snowasis	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Merry & Bright Lightshow	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Rockin' Wreaths	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

*Experience available only until December 23.

Night Events at the Zoo Expectations

- ☐ When we arrive at ZooTampa it will be dark.
- ☐ We might have a longer than usual walk to the front gate.
- ☐ When we walk into the Zoo, there will be lights, fake snow, and Christmas themed music.
- ☐ We can check out a Distract Pack at Guest Services Booth if we sensory supports.



Christmas in the WILD

PRESENTED BY GEICO

- GUEST SERVICES
- SHOPPING
- STROLLER/WHEELCHAIR RENTALS
- RESTROOM / AED
- SMOKING AREA
- FOOD/BEVERAGE LOCATION

Our medical team is available to help guests in the park, contact any team member for assistance.

Notice: Security cameras in use throughout the Zoo.

ZooTampa is a smoke-free environment except in designated smoking areas.

*Due to construction, guests may need to turn around at Manatee Cove or Stingray Shores to enjoy all of our Florida wildlife.



MOBILE APP

Download our mobile app for live walking directions to points of interest in the Zoo.



1)	2)	3)	4)	5)
6)	7)	8)	9)	10)

SEQUENCING MAP



Being Safe During Christmas in the Wild

A lot of people like to enjoy the Zoo. Somedays the Zoo is crowded. When the Zoo is busy, there might be people already looking at the lights. That is okay. We can wait patiently for our turn, or we can go see other lights and come back later.

- I will use our walking feet in the Zoo.
- I will keep my feet on the ground. I will not climb on any railings or exhibits.
- I will keep my hands to myself. I will NOT touch the animals unless an employee says it is okay.
- I will be respectful to the animals. I will not yell or make loud noises.

Jingle Bell Circle

Marvel at a stunning 30 ft. tall Christmas tree sparkling with thousands of brilliantly colored lights and enjoy continuous light shows, snow and special appearances by the Snow Queen and her dancing snow fairies.



Stilt Walkers



Dancers

North Pole Lane*

Meet Santa and his friends in a winter wonderland filled with twinkling lights, merry music, and unforgettable memories. Enjoy holiday treats, games with elves, write and send a letter to Jolly Old St. Nick, decorate cookies with Mrs. Claus, participate in holiday shopping, and more.



North Pole Lane

There is a lot of excited friends waiting to see Santa.

- I will wait our turn to meet Santa. The Zoo team member or elf will let me know when we can walk towards Santa.
- I can not use my purple wristband to go to the front of the line.
- I have a choice to wait online and meet Santa.
- I also can play games or write a letter to Santa.



What Can I See in North Pole Lane?



Santa

Due to the limited time of the event, we are unable to use purple wristbands for this line for Santa. We do have games and letters to Santa in the area to engage families.



Santa's Elves



Tree Angel



What Can I Do In North Pole Village?



Bag of Cole Toss



Tic Tac Snow



Yule a Hoops

What Can I Do When I am Waiting to See Santa



Write a letter to Santa



Send it to the North Pole



Decorate Cookies with Mrs. Claus
(see map for times)

Candy Cane Carousel

Embark on an unforgettable ride with red and white lights sprinkled all around the carousel for a candy cane celebration. Then have an unforgettable encounter with Randolph the reindeer in his holiday barn.



Randolph Puppet



Stilt walkers

Realm of the Nutcracker

The holiday classic story, cherished by audiences of all ages, comes to life during a modern dance party featuring Clara, the Nutcracker, Rat King, and the Sugar Plum fairies.



Characters

Dancers

Ice Cavern

The Africa tunnel transforms into a frosted dreamscape featuring glowing lights and the occasional snowstorm.





Rockin' Wreaths

Dance in Africa Circle to lively Christmas tunes played by an interactive DJ.



Africa Realm



Carolers



Light up animal statues





Merry & Bright Lightshow

Enjoy a festive holiday light show playing continuously through the night in front of ZooTampa's own holiday house.



Illuminate

The Ituri Pass in Africa transforms into a classic Christmas experience with brilliantly illuminated lanterns, magical stilt walkers, and a classical musician celebrating the beauty of the season.



Stilt Walkers



Violinist



Ticky Tacky Christmas

Roaring Springs transforms into a land of tacky, where holiday decorations get silly, and the area comes alive with untraditional Christmas music.



Gingerbread Jubilee

Join Mayor Molasses and the citizens of Gingerbread Village as they invite all guests to celebrate Christmas with them at an unforgettable jubilee.



Characters

Caribbean Christmas

Transport to the islands with a festive display of bright pink flamingo lights and catch the Hymn-Prov show for holiday laughs and cheers.



There is an archway of lights you pass under to enter and exit the Caribbean Christmas area



The Hymn-Prov show has colored lights and singing with audience participation



Christmas lights along the walkways





Leaving the Zoo

The adult or group I am with will decide what to do after the rides. We might keep exploring the Zoo, or we might get ready to leave.

When it is time to go home, we will walk to the car.

I had a good day at ZooTampa. I can come back and visit again another day.

THANK YOU

We thank our many like-minded partners for their support to produce materials to enhance the experience of guests at ZooTampa.

The Lowry Murphey Family Foundation, Inc.

