

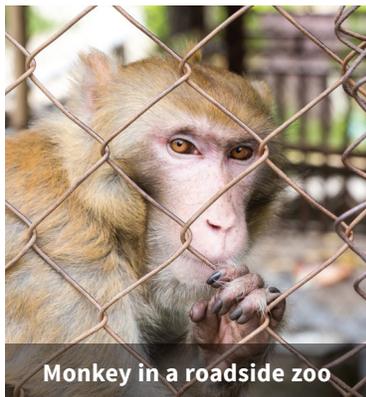


## The Kind Teacher's Guide to

# SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS AND FUNDRAISERS

Field trips and fundraisers are fun, exciting experiences that students and staff members look forward to during the school year. As educators, we're responsible for setting a positive example through the trips and other events that we plan, as well as for promoting respect, kindness, and empathy for all sentient beings in everything we do.

When schools take kids on trips to animal-exploiting businesses like marine parks and roadside zoos or sponsor inhumane “donkey basketball” games to raise funds, **they send the harmful message that it's OK to bully, take advantage of, and even abuse**



Monkey in a roadside zoo

**those who are weaker.** Animals don't want to spend their lives in dismal cages or tanks or be dragged from city to city in cramped trailers and gawked at by noisy, unruly crowds—and no student should be misled into thinking otherwise. So ensure that your school's

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activities are kind to everyone—and make sure you're teaching students to respect and care for animals by following the steps listed at the end of this leaflet.

### Know the Issues

Animals' normal behavior can't be observed in most artificial environments, because their basic needs aren't being met there—so visiting an unaccredited aquarium, a circus, a marine park, or a roadside zoo on a field trip doesn't actually teach students about animals. And when it comes to fundraisers, don't force animals to be involved in your plan. Donkey basketball games—abusive spectacles in which participants ride on the backs of terrified animals—send the message that animals are nothing more than props, as do cruel “incentives” such as having a teacher or principal swallow a live worm or goldfish if students raise a certain amount of money.



Donkey basketball fundraiser

A good rule of thumb to follow when deciding whether an event or a facility is humane is to ask if it involves animals. If the answer is yes and they're being used for entertainment or exploited in any other way—for profit or for “fun”—that's a good indication that you should avoid it, because experiences that use animals for human amusement are not teaching students the right lessons.

## Choose Kindness

**Field trips** should be both fun and educational, so steer clear of any place that exploits animals to make a profit. Choose destinations that are interactive and exciting and that teach kids that animals' lives should be protected and respected, not disrupted by humans.



A fun educational trip that doesn't harm animals

Cruel ❌	Kind ✔
Roadside zoos	Open-admission animal shelters, live-animal cams, and virtual tours
Circuses with animals	Animal-free circuses and other types of shows
Marine parks and unaccredited aquariums	Museums and libraries
Petting zoos and other live-animal displays	Parks, reserves, and botanical gardens

**Fundraisers** for your school or projects should never threaten animals' well-being. Say no to any fundraiser that uses live animals—and instead select a creative, family-friendly event that's fun for everyone.

Cruel ❌	Kind ✔
Donkey basketball games	Vegan bake sales and potluck dinners
Circuses with animals	Car washes
Live-animal giveaways	Rubber-duck derby racing
"Kiss a pig," "swallow a goldfish," and other inhumane activities	Talent shows, school competitions, and game nights

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## Be Creative

Animals are sentient beings, not teaching tools or entertainers. There are countless effective ways to inspire excitement in kids, raise money, and offer hands-on experiences that will instill empathy, respect for others, and a love for learning in your students—without harming or disrespecting animals. Need more ideas? Visit [TeachKind.org/FieldTrips](https://TeachKind.org/FieldTrips) or [TeachKind.org/Fundraisers](https://TeachKind.org/Fundraisers).

## Take These Steps

If an inhumane field trip or fundraiser is in the works at your school, speak up. Here are three things that you can do:

- **Meet with or write a letter to your principal encouraging him or her to change the event to an animal-friendly one.** Include plenty of facts about the cruelty involved and the harmful message that it would send to students. Suggest alternative places to visit or ways to raise money that wouldn't have a negative impact on animals. (There are many!)
- **Get your fellow teachers on board.** Share the facts with your colleagues, and gather their support when asking your school's administration to choose a different trip or event that promotes compassion.
- **Set a good example for students.** Let your colleagues know that there's no shame in changing a trip or fundraiser that's already been planned—in fact, it's a teachable moment that gives you a chance to show students that it's never too late to do the right thing. Now more than ever, it's vital to teach kids to have empathy for all sentient beings. Make sure that your school's activities send students the right message. They should promote the kind treatment of animals—and each other.

### Were you successful in replacing a trip or another event that wasn't animal-friendly?

Let us know—we want to hear your story! We can even help you propose a school pledge to avoid inhumane field trips or a policy banning the use of live animals in fundraisers and other school events.