

# Zoo Outing for Children

19 November 2019

*The Zoo Outing was planned and organised by Ezekiel Cheong, recipient of the Tay Tee Peng Distinguished Undergraduate Student Award, as part of a community project.*

## EVENT PROGRAMME:

- 08:30 Meet participants and volunteers in Woodlands Evangelical Free Church
- 08:45 McDonald's breakfast for participants and volunteers
- 09:30 Board chartered bus to the Zoo
- 10:15 Arrive at and enter Zoo
- 10:30 Splash Safari show
- 11:00 Animal Friends show
- 12:00 Lunch at KFC
- 12:45 Zoo tour
- 14:30 Rainforest Fights Back show
- 15:00 Board chartered bus back to Woodlands Evangelical Free Church
- 15:45 Bye!

## PARTICIPANTS' PROFILE:

17 children participated, ranging from ages 6 to 12. These children are clients of Woodlands Social Centre (WSC), a registered Voluntary Welfare Organisation (VWO) under the National Council of Social Services (NCSS). Clients of WSC receive financial assistance and other social services, regardless of race or religion.

## VOLUNTEERS' PROFILE:

Volunteers were from Woodlands Evangelical Free Church, which is the church associated with WSC. As the church's social arm, many WSC activities engage the church for volunteers. Volunteers for this Zoo outing ranged from 17 years old to 23 years old. A full-time social worker from WSC was around during the event as well. Ezekiel, who planned and conducted the programme was part of the adult team of 6.

## EVENT SUMMARY:

Children participants were greeted with a hearty McDonald's meal and a gift bag in Woodlands Evangelical Free Church. Each gift bag was made up of a small backpack with a colour pencil set, a chocolate bar, a poncho and a lunch box or a bottle. A simple activity worksheet was also prepared for each child – they just needed to fill in which animals excited them the most.

We boarded the bus and had a simple briefing of the ground rules. We arrived at the Zoo and our first stop was the Splash Safari show which featured a trained sealion performing. We had to quickly make our way to the second show at 11am. The children were all looking forward to the Animal Friends show, which featured domesticated animals.

We had lunch at KFC, a hearty meal which the kids and volunteers all enjoyed. With a bit more time to spend, we roamed the Zoo a little more, visiting incredible animals like the giraffe and the white tiger.

After our last show, Rainforest Fights Back, we headed back to the coach bay to return home.

The children were not easy to handle but we slowly earned their respect with our firm but fair treatment. The volunteers were an amazing bunch, being extremely warm and friendly with the children; and protecting and looking out for their safety at the same time. The children were rowdy and very excited at the start but got tired towards the end. Nonetheless, they all enjoyed themselves very much, and learnt a lot from their Zoo outing.

PHOTOS:



*Preparing the gift bags for the kids*



*Briefing on the bus*



*Arrival at the Zoo*



*Splash Safari show – you can see the colourful bags that the kids are wearing!*



*Observing vampire bats up close*



*Golden retrievers – the most popular at the Animal Friends show*



*Some of our kids became part of the show!*



*Shot of the day*



*Lunch at KFC*



*Searching for otters*



*Looking for the stick insect...*



*Here!*





*All ready to go home*