

WEDDINGS

YOUR WEDDING'S CENTERPIECE.



BROOKFIELD
Z  
CHICAGO



WEDDINGS OVERVIEW

PLAN YOUR WEDDING

Celebrate your love with a one-of-a-kind experience at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, where every wedding is as unique as the couple at its heart. Our dedicated Events Team works closely with you to bring your vision to life, attending to every detail—from vendor coordination and photography timelines to unforgettable animal encounters. Enjoy seamless services, including tram transportation, complimentary tasting, and access to a private Couple's Suite for comfort and convenience throughout your special day.

CUSTOM WEDDINGS

Exchange vows in a picturesque garden plaza, by tranquil fountains, or overlooking secluded Swan Lake. Or come host an elegant cocktail reception amidst the beauty of immersive wildlife habitats or beneath the stars in one of our scenic nature plazas. Whether your entire wedding day is with us, or you join us after your ceremony to celebrate, each space at the Zoo provides a romantic and unique backdrop, making your wedding day truly unforgettable.

CURATED WEDDINGS

While custom weddings are our specialty, we also offer curated packages to simplify the planning process: The Charming Celebration for intimate gatherings, The Classic Celebration for timeless elegance, and The Opulent Celebration for a lavish, unforgettable experience.



OVERVIEW

WHY BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO

When you choose Brookfield Zoo Chicago for your event, you're not just hosting a memorable gathering, you're also making a significant contribution to wildlife conservation and education. A portion of every event goes directly toward supporting the Zoo's mission to inspire and empower our community to engage in wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship.



UNMATCHED LOCATION

- ✓ **Iconic Location:** 235-acre oasis in Chicago, featuring unique wildlife habitats, historic architecture, and scenic landscapes.
- ✓ **Variety of Venues:** Choose from lush garden plazas, tranquil fountains, picnic pavilions, indoor accommodations with audiovisual capabilities, immersive animal habitats, fun attractions, serene nature trails, and picturesque shaded areas.
- ✓ **Stunning Backdrops:** Host your event near Roosevelt Fountain, Swan Lake, with the bears, the giraffes or the dolphins for a one-of-a-kind atmosphere.

EXCEPTIONAL CATERING

- ✓ **Gourmet Selections:** High-quality, locally sourced ingredients with customizable, themed menu options.
- ✓ **Artistic Presentations:** Our chefs craft stunning, flavor-rich creations for an elevated dining experience.
- ✓ **Flexibility and Options:** Catering options for every budget, scale, and dietary preference, with indoor and outdoor setups.
- ✓ **Fun and Casual Offerings:** Enjoy delicious crowd-pleasers like interactive taco stations, build-your-own sundae bars, and creative displays.
- ✓ **Signature Beverages:** Include refreshing cocktails and beverage stations with unique drink choices that complement your menu.



OVERVIEW

WHY BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO CONTINUED



FLEXIBLE EVENT SPACES

- ✓ **Indoor and Outdoor Venues:** From formal banquet rooms to open-air plazas and shaded picnic areas, we offer spaces to suit any event type and size.
- ✓ **Event Customization:** Whether for weddings, corporate events, family reunions, or children's parties, we provide tailored setups and décor options to bring your vision to life.
- ✓ **Exclusive Full Zoo Buyout:** For large-scale gatherings, reserve all 235 acres for a truly private, immersive experience.

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

- ✓ **Wildlife and Nature Integration:** Create a unique experience with immersive habitats, lush landscapes, and close encounters with diverse wildlife.
- ✓ **Exciting Add-Ons:** Enhance your event with carousel rides, animal experiences, and live entertainment.
- ✓ **Themed Events and Customization:** Add thematic elements, food stations, and creative entertainment options for a distinct and unforgettable event.



OVERVIEW

WHY BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO CONTINUED



AFFORDABLE EXCELLENCE

- ✓ **Flexible Pricing Options:** We offer a range of pricing structures to accommodate events of all sizes and budgets, ensuring a perfect fit for your needs.
- ✓ **Customizable Packages:** Choose from a variety of catering, décor, and venue options to align with your specific vision and financial plan.
- ✓ **Transparent Pricing:** Our dedicated events team provides clear and upfront pricing, so you know exactly what to expect without any hidden fees or surprises.
- ✓ **Value-Added Services:** Enjoy a variety of included amenities to ensure your event is seamless and stress-free without additional costs.
- ✓ **Seasonal Promotions:** Take advantage of special offers and seasonal packages that provide additional savings and enhance your overall experience.
- ✓ **Payment Flexibility:** We offer flexible payment options to help you manage your budget comfortably, including deposit schedules and payment plans.

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT AND SERVICE

- ✓ **Expert Planning Assistance:** Our dedicated events team guides you from planning to execution, ensuring every detail aligns with your vision.
- ✓ **On-Site Staff:** Friendly, professional staff available throughout your event to make sure everything runs seamlessly.
- ✓ **Commitment to Quality:** We combine first-class amenities with an inspiring environment, ensuring each event is executed to perfection.
- ✓ Choosing Brookfield Zoo Chicago for your event means immersing your guests in an extraordinary experience that blends nature, elegance, and excitement, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



OVERVIEW

WHY BROOKFIELD ZOO CHICAGO

CONTINUED

MAKING AN IMPACT FOR WILDLIFE

- ✓ **Contribute to Conservation:** A portion of every event directly supports Brookfield Zoo Chicago's mission to inspire and empower wildlife conservation and environmental stewardship.
- ✓ **Animal Care Funding:** Your event helps fund comprehensive animal care programs, ensuring that our diverse species receive top-notch care, nutrition, and enrichment.
- ✓ **Environmental Education Programs:** Support our initiatives designed to educate visitors of all ages about biodiversity, ecosystems, and the importance of protecting our planet through engaging, hands-on learning experiences and interactive exhibits.
- ✓ **Global Conservation Efforts:** Your contribution aids vital programs that protect endangered species and restore their habitats, allowing us to participate in impactful global conservation initiatives.
- ✓ **Legacy of Caring:** By choosing to host your event at Brookfield Zoo Chicago, you join a community dedicated to creating a brighter future for wildlife and the natural world.
- ✓ **Inspire Positive Change:** Your gathering is more than just a celebration; it's a commitment to conservation and a chance to inspire others to engage in protecting our planet and its inhabitants.

Together, we can make a significant impact—your event at Brookfield Zoo Chicago helps ensure a thriving world for wildlife for generations to come.





WEDDING PACKAGES





WEDDING PACKAGE 1

THE CHARMING CELEBRATION

Celebrate your special day with elegance and simplicity in this thoughtfully designed package, perfect for couples seeking a more budget-friendly option without compromising on quality. Begin with a stunning ceremony in your chosen venue, followed by a delectable two-entrée buffet dinner in the Savannah Ballroom or Swan Pavilion. This option is ideal for intimate celebrations or those looking to maximize value while enjoying a stunning and memorable experience at Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

Pricing starts at \$175 per person for 150 guests.

Please consult with your Catering Manager for pricing on smaller or larger guest counts.

This package includes:

- A picturesque ceremony space of your choice.
- A delightful two-entrée buffet dinner in either the Savannah Ballroom or Swan Pavilion.
- A standard bar to keep the festivities lively.
- Professional staff and house linens for a polished presentation.

This package is available on weeknights and non-peak season dates (November through March). Please consult with your Catering Manager for pricing on weekend and/or peak season dates.

Service charges and tax are not included. Upgrades such as additional menu options, premium bar packages, and décor enhancements are available to further personalize your event.





WEDDING PACKAGE 2

THE CLASSIC CELEBRATION

Celebrate your love story with the unmatched charm and elegance of Brookfield Zoo Chicago. Includes a stunning ceremony space, a one-hour cocktail reception in your chosen habitat with passed appetizers and a standard bar, followed by a plated or buffet dinner in either the Savannah Ballroom or Swan Pavilion. Let us make your wedding an unforgettable journey into a world of wonder and joy.

Pricing starts at \$275 per person for 150 guests.

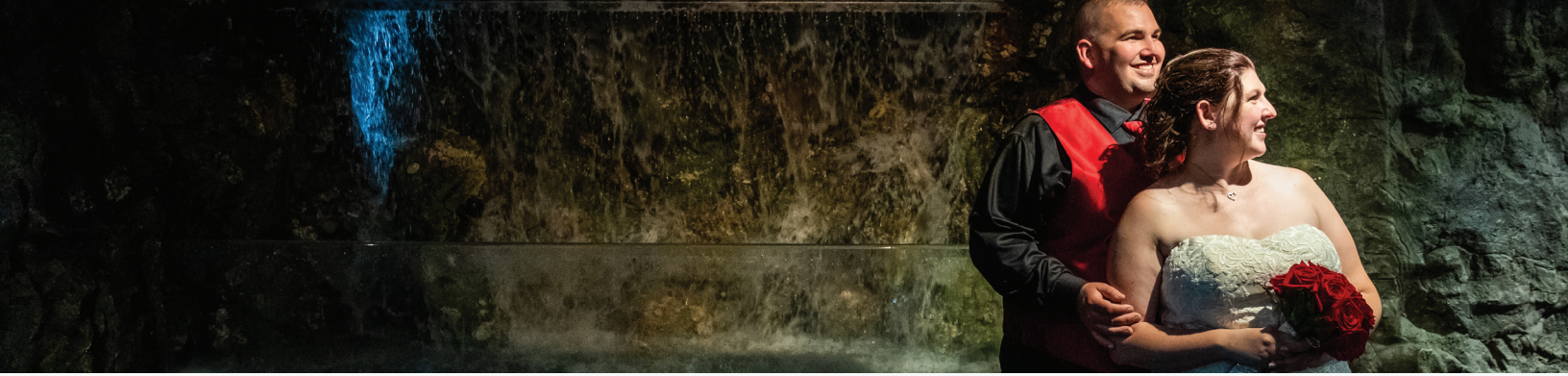
Please consult with your Catering Manager for pricing on smaller or larger guest counts.

This package includes:

- Your choice of outdoor or indoor ceremony, cocktail hour habitat and dinner reception location.
- A selection of three (3) passed appetizers during cocktail hour and either a plated or buffet dinner.
- A standard bar with signature couple's drink
- Full-service staff to ensure every detail is flawless
- House linens to compliment your décor

Service charges and tax are not included. Upgrades, including enhanced meal options, premium bar packages, and additional décor, are available for an elevated experience.





WEDDING PACKAGE 3

THE OPULENT CELEBRATION

For couples seeking an unparalleled wedding experience, this elevated package offers luxury at its finest. Every detail is meticulously crafted to create a truly unforgettable day for you and your guests. This package is designed for couples who wish to indulge their guests in a lavish and truly unforgettable wedding day at Brookfield Zoo Chicago.

Pricing starts at \$400 per person for 150 guests.

Please consult with your Catering Manager for pricing on smaller or larger guest counts.



This package includes:

- Your choice of outdoor or indoor ceremony, cocktail hour habitat and dinner reception location.
- A champagne and sparkling water Welcome Drink to greet your guests as they arrive.
- A selection of three (3) passed appetizers during cocktail hour and either a plated or buffet dinner with premium entrée options.
- A premium bar with signature couple's drink.
- Full-service staff to ensure every detail is flawless.
- Custom linens to compliment your décor.
- Upgraded Couples Suite with snacks and bottled water.
- Private giraffe feeding for the couple and their photographer
- Animal ambassador to greet your guests at the dinner reception

Service charges and tax are not included. Upgrades such as additional menu options and décor enhancements are available to further personalize your event.





CUSTOM WEDDINGS





CEREMONIES

UNFORGETTABLE SETTINGS FOR YOUR "I DO"

Exchange vows surrounded by the breathtaking beauty of nature and iconic landmarks.

Ceremony start times:

6 PM during peak season, 5 PM during the off-season.



LOCATION	CAPACITY
Roosevelt Fountain	500+ guests
Formal Pool	120 guests
Swan Lake	120 guests
Seven Seas Underwater Viewing	150 guests
Underwater Bear Viewing	150 guests
White Oak Room	100 guests

Every ceremony includes:

- White padded garden chairs.
- Private transportation for the couple and photographer to capture stunning moments across the Zoo.
- A rehearsal to ensure a flawless event.





RECEPTIONS

ELEVATE YOUR CELEBRATION

Begin your reception with a captivating cocktail hour among graceful dolphins, majestic giraffes, or playful bears.

Guests can mingle over hors d'oeuvres and drinks in uniquely themed spaces enhanced with animal enrichment and sophisticated décor, including scattered highboys and cabaret tables.

Cap off your unforgettable wedding celebration with a dinner tailored to your vision, be it casual or elegant.

Choose the sophisticated ambiance of our indoor Savannah Ballroom, perfect for a year-round, stylish affair.

Alternatively, embrace the enchanting view of the beautiful Roosevelt Fountain

by dining in the Swan Pavilion, where the serene setting adds a magical touch to your evening. Both venues

offer a unique backdrop that can be customized to reflect your taste and style. Celebrate your love story in a

setting that promises to leave a lasting impression on you and your guests.

LOCATION	CAPACITY	VENUE FEE
Seven Seas Underwater Viewing	200 guests	\$3,000
Underwater Bear Viewing	200 guests	\$3,000
Habitat Africa (Outdoor)	150 guests	\$2,000
Habitat Africa (Indoor)	100 guests	\$1,500
Living Coast	200 guests	\$1,800
Wild Encounters	200 guests	\$2,000
The Swamp	150 guests	\$2,000
Bramsen Ambassador Building	100 guests	\$2,000
Savannah Ballroom	200 guests	\$2,500
Swan Pavilion	240 guests	\$3,000
Roosevelt Fountain	500+ guests	Based on Zoo's extended hours

Tropical Forest

*Available late Fall 2025





DINNER

A CULINARY EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER

Delight your guests with an exquisite dining experience in the Savannah Ballroom or Swan Pavilion, both accommodating up to 200 guests. Every dinner package includes:

- Elegant tables, chairs, and fine china
- Cake cutting service
- A spacious dance floor

Choose between indulgent buffet or plated menu options with premium beverage packages available for the ultimate dining experience (see Catering Menu PDF for menu and beverage details).

Culinary Excellence Tailored to You

Our renowned culinary team delivers an extraordinary menu designed to delight every palate. From allergen accommodations to children's plates, we ensure every detail exceeds your expectations.





ANIMAL EXPERIENCES

ADD AN EXTRAORDINARY TOUCH

Enhance your wedding day with an exclusive private animal experience, designed to create unforgettable memories for the couple. Whether it's meeting an exotic tamandua or feeding a gentle giraffe, these intimate encounters offer a unique and personal touch to your celebration. By adding this special experience, you'll not only delight in the moment but also support the Zoo's conservation efforts, making your wedding day even more meaningful.

Private Giraffe Feeding

Share a magical moment feeding a giraffe, perfect for a unique photo and cherished memory (\$500, 20 minutes at 3:30 PM for the couple and their photographer only).

Animal Ambassador Greeting

Thrill your guests with a special visit from one of our animal ambassadors, such as a sloth, tamandua, or cape porcupine. This 30-minute encounter is the perfect way to start your dinner reception (\$750).



WEDDING EVENT INFORMATION

CATERING

Brookfield Zoo Chicago is a full-service catering operation. We do not permit outside food, beverages or alcohol to be brought into your event or to leave your event location. We will do our best to accommodate allergy or dietary preferences as needed. A 21% taxable service charge and the applicable sales tax will be added to all food and beverage prices.

BEVERAGE

We offer a complete selection of beverages to complement your function. Please note that the Illinois State Liquor Commission regulates alcoholic beverage sales and service. The Zoo, as a licensee, is responsible for administration of these regulations. Therefore, no alcohol may be brought into the Zoo from outside.

FOOD GUARANTEES

Final guest count is to be advised no later than 11AM, ten (10) days prior to the event date. The final bill will reflect the guarantee or the number served, whichever is greater. If no final guarantee is received, we will consider the estimated guest count indicated on your contract to be your guaranteed number of guests, the number indicated on the Facility Use and Food Service. The guaranteed guest count is not subject to reduction after the above deadline. If the guest count increases after the final guarantee has been provided and within (48) hours of the event date, a premium of \$4.00 per person will be applied to your final bill for each person above your final guarantee. Please advise us as soon as possible should your guest count be greatly reduced or increased. The Zoo will prepare to serve five percent (5%) over the guaranteed number.

FUNCTION SPACE

Brookfield Zoo Chicago reserves the right to change venues to accommodate changes, and limit or move the location of an event, before or during the event, if in its opinion the event is harmful to the Zoo's animals, image, facilities or other property, or if the facility is unavailable for any reason beyond its control. If attendance increases or decreases dramatically, the Zoo reserves the right to change venues to accommodate such change. Smoking is not permitted in any of our indoor or outdoor private venues and only on Zoo grounds in the 2 designated smoking areas assigned by the Zoo.

PROHIBITED

For the safety of our animals, the following items are strictly forbidden on Zoo grounds and in its facilities: balloons, plastic straws, confetti, centerpieces with fish, fire lit lanterns, glitter, sparklers, open flame candles, amenities containing food or beverage and bird seed. This is not an inclusive list. Please check with your Sales Manager if you have any questions or concerns and to receive approval. For the welfare and safety of our animal collection, we do not allow musical entertainment inside or outside our animal habitats.

CONTRACT AND DEPOSIT

In order to finalize the booking process, your Sales Manager must receive the signed contract and deposit to secure the function space and date. Payment via credit card or ACH transaction via our Triple Seat Guest Portal is preferred. All events with Consumption Bars must have a credit card on file before the date of the event. Consumption Bar totals will be charged after the event. All deposits made are applied to the final invoice.

FINAL PAYMENT

The final balance of all Catered Events is due in full ten (10) days prior to the event by cash, credit card, cashier's or certified check. No personal checks will be accepted.

CANCELLATION

Client must give Company written notice if Client wishes to cancel this Event Contract and the Event. Company will retain all payments and deposits made to Company in the event of cancellation. Written notice must be provided by the party(ies) signing this Event Contract. Cancellation notice given by any other person(s) is not considered a valid cancellation.

AUDIOVISUAL

We will be happy to assist you with any audiovisual requirements. Rental prices will be provided upon request for equipment not currently available at the Zoo.



QUESTIONS?

Contact our Catered Events Team at
catered.events@brookfieldzoo.org
or call us at 708.688.8355.

