



**I am going to visit
the Goat Encounter
Yard at the Detroit Zoo**

Today, I am going to
visit the Goat
Encounter Yard at the
Detroit Zoo!

The Goat Encounter
Yard is located inside
the Fred and Barbara
Erb Discovery Trails,
just past the Rackham
Memorial Fountain in
the center of the Zoo.



I can find the Goat Encounter Yard by following signs to Erb Discovery Trails.

If I need help finding the yard, I can follow signs or ask a staff member.



When I arrive at the Goat Encounter Yard, I may need to wait in line before I can enter. That is alright. I can wait with my group until it is our turn.

I can practice brushing the goat statue outside the yard and learn more facts about animals as I wait.



Before I enter the yard, I will wash my hands in the sink.

I can choose to place my items in the cubbies. My items will be safe there until I return.

The ground outside the yard may feel squishy or bouncy. I will make sure I walk carefully to stay safe.



I will make sure to pay attention to directions from staff and signs, and to stay in areas where guests are allowed.

HELP US PROTECT THE GOATS AND YOU

BEFORE YOU ENTER

- No food or drinks.
- No strollers or wagons.
- Adult supervision required.

INTERACT WITH CARE

- Move slowly and calmly.
- Let the goats come to you.
- Be gentle. Do not chase.
- Pet or brush only their sides or backs using gentle strokes toward their tails.
- Keep hands away from faces and mouths.

KEEP EVERYONE SAFE

- Do not feed, pick up, hold or sit on the goats.
- Do not climb on structures.
- Goats may nibble or explore. Secure loose items.
- Wash or sanitize your hands when you leave.
- Alert a staff member if you see unsafe behavior.

I will wait patiently at the gate until a staff member tells me it is time to enter.



When it is my turn, a staff member will give me a rubber brush and welcome me into the yard.

The brush is flexible and smooth on one side with grooves on the other side. I can place my hand in the brush to hold it.



There are many goats in the yard. Some goats may walk up to me, and some may stay with other goats or eat grass.

I can gently approach the goats and touch them while respecting their space.



The goats' fur may feel wiry, rough or a little dusty. I will use the rubber brush on their backs and sides.

I will not brush or touch their heads because that is a sensitive area, and I will keep my hands away from their mouths.



The Goat Encounter Yard may have strong or unfamiliar smells. Goats may go to the bathroom in the yard, and staff help keep the space clean.

If the smell feels too strong for me, I can tell someone in my group and take a break or leave the yard.



Goats sometimes like to gently nibble on loose clothing. Wearing fitted clothing can help with this.

If a goat nibbles on my clothing and I feel uncomfortable, I can calmly walk away or leave the yard.

I will make sure to keep my hands, hair and items away from the goats' mouths.



Sometimes, the goats play with one another by jumping.

If I am nervous, I can move away and watch from a distance.

The goats also may make noises, called “bleating.” If this is overwhelming, I can use noise-canceling headphones.



Other visitors may feel excited while they interact with the goats. That is okay. Everyone is enjoying the experience together.

I will make sure to be calm and gentle with the animals.



If I feel overwhelmed at any time, I can tell someone in my group or a staff member.

While in the yard, I may see Zoo staff recording information on tablets. These animal welfare scientists are watching the animals to ensure they are comfortable and exhibit healthy behavior.



When my time is finished, I will walk back to the gate and return the rubber brush to a staff member.

After I exit the yard, I will be sure to collect any items I left in the cubbies. I can wash my hands again in the sink or use hand sanitizer.



My visit to the
Goat Encounter
Yard was so much
fun, and I hope to
come back soon!



A brown goat with small horns stands on a wooden boardwalk, looking towards the right. The background shows a grassy area with a wooden fence, trees, and a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

Thank you for visiting the Goat Encounter Yard at the **DetroitZOO**

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