



Alaska Zoo Quest

PROPOSAL

The students of Polaris K-12 School in Anchorage, Alaska, propose to create an educational community treasure hunt quest at the Alaska Zoo. Our goal is to promote environmental stewardship through Place-based Service Learning.

- Clues allow participants to investigate the animals and natural surroundings to build a sense of connection with interactive activities to connect to Alaska's wildlife and places
- Clues are available using QR Codes that link the questers to information, images, and interactive activities.
- Clues ultimately lead to a digital treasure box.

Phase 1: Gathering Information - All-school Field Trip

- **All-school Seminar Day:** Advisory/Family Groups activity will meet and discuss the book, *The Last Straw: Kids vs. Plastics*, receive their zoo exhibit assignment, instructions, and create a plan for implementation on the field trip the next day. All materials will be provided.
- **Field Trip Day:** Advisory/Family Groups will go their zoo exhibit assignment and complete the tasks.

Phase 2: Creation of the Maps and Clues

- **Advisories/Family Groups:** Gather artwork/photographs from their zoo exhibit assignment.
- **Science:** Create text for animals/habitat
- **Social Studies:** Create the maps needed for each set of clues.
- **ELA:** Create clues from the information gathered by the Advisories/Family Groups on the zoo field trip. This includes the writing the text, assembling the digital format with images, and creating the QR code.
- *NOTE: Secondary classes and interested family groups.*

Phase 3: Testing the Quest

Once the quest is created, it will be tested. The following need to be included in the Quest information:

- **Duration:** how much time participants can expect to complete the quest.
- **Special Features:** Alaska Natural History, Preservation
- **Walking Conditions/Accessibility**
- **Physical Difficulty:** easy, moderate
- **Required and optional gear:** smart phone for QR code, Alaska Zoo entrance fee, and comfortable shoes.
- **Season:** year-round. *As this quest will be initially created in April, it is proposed that additional elements to the quest be added for each season of the year.*

Phase 4: **Creation of an Infographic**

- Polaris will create an infographic to be available at the zoo for visitors.
- Polaris will maintain the website for the QR codes.
- Polaris will update the quest with seasonal information and images.