

**Ability Guidebooks  
presents  
Explore Portland!**



**I Am Going To See Wild Animals  
At The Rose Festival!**

**A Step-by-step Guide On How To Visit  
A Walk on the Wild Side Animal Safari  
At Waterfront Park  
By  
Brett Bigham**

**Every year the Rose Festival opens the Animal Safari early one Saturday for Special Needs Day. This is a great time to visit the animals!**



**On Special Needs Day there is no loud music, no carnival rides and no crowds. It is a quiet morning to visit the Waterfront Park.**

**If loud noises and crowds bother you, you should go see the animals on a morning where it is quieter.**



**Every year there are different animals. Look! This time there was a lion! When you visit there may be different animals!**

**There are rules you have to follow at the Safari Park. The animals do not like it when people yell. You have to use a quiet voice by the animals.**



**See the lion? He is very happy that nobody is yelling. He really likes it when you use a quiet voice!**

**Another rule is you have to stand behind the fence. See this family? They are all standing behind the fence.**



**Some animals don't like people to get close. That is why they are behind the fence. Do not try to touch the animals behind the fence!**

**This boy is looking at a lion! His mom is proud he is following the rules.**



**He is standing behind the fence and using a quiet voice. His mom is very happy that he stays close to her. You should stay with your group too!**

**There are some animals that are not in cages. These are friendly animals that like to be petted but you have to ask first! Do not pet any animal until you have been told it is safe to touch!**



**This lady works at the park and is holding an animal that is friendly and likes to be petted. The teacher asked, "Can I pet him?" The lady said it was safe to pet this animal!**

**The man in black also works at the Safari Park. He is holding a big lizard! The teacher asked, "Can I pet the lizard?"**



**"No," said the man, "You can get close but he doesn't like to be petted."**

**The teacher stood close to look at the lizard but notice where his hands are? He is not touching the lizard because he is following the rules.**

**Hey! Look here! This little girl is following the rules too. She is very excited to see a lion but she still uses a quiet voice and stays behind the fence!**

**If a little girl can follow the rules, so can you!**



**Some kids get so excited they forget the rules and talk too loud. If you are getting excited or stressed out, you can take a break and walk around Waterfront Park.**

**If you have the money you can pay to have your picture taken holding a baby animal! Every year it is a different animal.**



**Since these boys followed all the rules and stayed calm they got to get their picture taken with a baby wallaby! Shhhhhh! Use a quiet voice!**

**These guys also followed all the rules. They used their quiet voices and walked calmly. This made the animals happy. They saved their money and paid to get their picture taken with a baby tiger!**



**The baby tiger is not scared! He likes people who use a quiet voice and who move slowly.**

**In the middle of the Safari Park is a room with glass tanks of spiders, lizards and snakes!**



**These people are going to go see the spiders and snakes. They know it is safe to look but they shouldn't touch the tanks! No touching in here!**

**Remember not to touch any animals unless you ask!**



**I wonder what animals you will meet at the Walk on the Wild Side Safari Park!**

# **Information on visiting the Special Needs Day at Waterfront Park**

**Three years ago I approached the Rose Festival to ask them to consider having a special needs event. In my work with students who have autism I've learned an event like the carnival at Waterfront Park is probably too much to handle. Huge crowds, noisy carnival rides and the main stage can all create an overload of the senses for someone with autism. The crowds can make managing a wheelchair difficult and for many the idea of attending any of the activities at the Waterfront was just not possible.**

**The Rose Festival embraced the idea and created a Special Needs Day at Waterfront Park and the Cityfair. Check the Rose Festival website for the date. The Rose Festival opens up the Cityfair at Waterfront Park early one day of the festival and has a free event with no carnival rides or noise, no mainstage events and no crowds. They open the Walk on the Wildside Animal Safari and the Kidzone. Alaska Airlines has also opened their booth up early for the morning.**

**Families are welcome to wander the carnival area and familiarize everyone with how the carnival works. Many people stay after the Special Needs event when the Cityfair opens to the general public and start running rides. This quiet morning is a unique opportunity to get used to the fair empty and then transition into a busier setting. For some the quiet morning might be their practice run at attending a Waterfront event in the future.**

**A huge thank you to the Rose Festival for being so incredibly awesome! Frank Chinn, Brett Baker, Jeff Curtis and Steven Bledsoe and everyone at Rose Festival -Thank you! Every person who has attended in past years has been so thankful that you have this event. An Extra Special Gigantic Thank You to Marilyn Clint who makes Portland a better place for you and me.**

**Thank you Malachi and Jaden for posing with the wallaby!**

**Ability Guidebooks are step-by-step instructions on how to access community destinations. For many people with autism new situations can cause stress and discomfort. Ability Guidebooks help to prepare people for new experiences.**

**This book will also help prepare younger kids for their visit to A Walk On The Wild Side. Many Kindergarten and elementary teachers use Ability Guidebooks to prepare their students for field trips.**

**Brett Bigham is the 2014 Oregon State Teacher of the Year and is a 2015 National Education Association Educator of Excellence from Oregon and an NEA Foundation Global Fellow. Bigham is the first Special Education teacher to win these awards.**

**He has created Ability Guidebooks for Portland, Oregon City, Cusco, Peru and Washington, D.C.**

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### **Special Thanks**

**Oregon Education Association and the NEA Foundation Global Fellowship Program. By naming me a 2015 Global Fellow I was able to travel to Peru and create my first international Ability Guidebook for the Inca Museum in Cusco. This has inspired me to broaden the reach of these books and hopefully to inspire community members around the world to create books for their own cities.**

**If you can translate a book into different language, Please, Please Please consider stepping up and making these books available to people who share your language.**

**Special thanks to Mike for giving up part of his weekend for proofreading.**