SCHOOL’S OUT CAMP, SPRING & WINTER CAMPS – FULL DAY

Thanks so much for your interest in our integrative education programs! Kansas City Zoo camps are American Camp Association (ACA) accredited. This certification means that our camps meet or exceed standards of excellence in over 300 categories including, but not limited to health, safety, and program quality. Below, you will find information pertaining to this program. Please review this packet with your camper before attending the program.

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RESERVATION POLICIES

General Reservation Policies: Full payment is due at time of making reservation.

Weather Cancellation Policy: Zoo programs are rain or shine. However, programs may be cancelled due to inclement weather, in which case the Zoo will notify registrants of the cancellation prior to the program. Registrants must notify all other participants they registered. If this happens, a full refund will be issued or registrant will have the ability to reschedule. Unless Kansas City Zoo cancels a program due to weather, there will be no refunds given.

Cancellations/Refunds:
- Programs may be cancelled due to low attendance numbers. If the Zoo cancels a program due to low enrollment, participants will either receive a full refund or have the ability to reschedule. Group registrants will be notified and must notify all other participants they registered.

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To book, contact KCZoo Education at 816.595.1765 or education@fotzkc.org
• No-show means customer did not give the Kansas City Zoo’s Education Department notice before the scheduled program. Refunds will not be issued for no-shows or early departure from program.
• Cancellation means the customer did contact the Kansas City Zoo’s Education Department before the scheduled program.
  o Cancellations made more than two weeks prior to the program will receive a refund of 75% of the program fee.
  o Cancellation requests received less than 2 weeks prior to the program start date will not receive a refund.

Date Change Policy: Date changes that occur less than 2 weeks prior to original scheduled program will incur a $5 processing fee per reservation. Date changes are subject to program availability.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Camp Location: Camp is based in the Zoo Learning Center located just to the right of the Zoo entrance.

First Day Check-In: On the first day of Camp, check-in occurs at 8:30am in the Sunroom of the Zoo Learning Center. Please use the front “Deramus Education Pavilion” entrance with the yellow sign. At this time, we will verify your camper’s registration, pass out their t-shirt, sell additional t-shirts, and review your camper’s emergency contacts, and verify all form signatures: medical, camp policies (including physical contact), liability release, and talent release, all of which were completed during online registration. Your camper will then be escorted to their designated areas.

Camp Participant Identification Cards: On the first day, you will receive two Identification Cards listing your camper’s name and a code. If someone other than yourself is authorized to pick up your child, please give them one of the cards, or tell them the code. Please note that we cannot release a camper to someone without an Identification Card, or without knowledge of the code. If the person picking up the camper does not have an Identification Card or the code, we will ask for a photo ID and immediately notify the parent contact for verification before your camper is allowed to leave.

Daily Participant Sign-In: Camp begins at 8:30am each day. Camp staff will be waiting to meet you in the Sunroom, where they will greet you and pass out name tags. You must sign your camper in and out every day!

Daily Participant Sign-Out: Please arrive on time; Camp ends at 3:30pm each day. Camp staff will be waiting to meet you in the Sunroom. If you are more than 15 minutes late, we will try to reach you by phone. Please note that a late fee of $15 will be charged to anyone who is more than 15 minutes late picking up their camper. If early pick-up is needed, please notify camp staff with instructions.

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Before & After-care: Before & Aftercare are NOT an extension of camp; all camp activities end at 3:30pm. Those in before & aftercare will be playing games and/or watching a movie. **Beforecare is priced at $10 per day, per child and Aftercare is priced at $15 per day, per child.** We encourage you to prepay for Before & Aftercare when you register your child, but we do allow sign-ups as needed during the camp week. Drop off for Before Care occurs in the Zoo Learning Center’s Sunroom between 7:30-8:30am. Pick-up from Aftercare is in the Zoo Learning Center classrooms from 3:30pm to 5:30pm. If you are more than 5 minutes late, we will try to reach you by phone. Please note that a late fee of $15 will be charged to anyone who is more than 5 minutes late picking up your camper.

**Dress:** For camp staff to easily identify participants, have your camper **wear their camp T-shirt every day.** Much of the day is spent outdoors; we recommend wearing comfortable khaki shorts/pants, socks, and athletic shoes – **no open-toe shoes** (sandals, flip-flops, or crocs). If rain is in the forecast, send your camper with a raincoat or poncho – no umbrellas. Please dress for the weather.

**Lunch:** Send your camper with a packed lunch, **NOT money.** Campers will not be able to purchase food, and refrigeration is not available. Please note that the Kansas City Zoo cannot ensure a gluten-free/nut-free environment due to the diets of the animals.

*If your child has been selected to receive a Kansas City Zoo camp scholarship, lunch will be provided. Lunch typically consists of a turkey sandwich, chips, drink, and dessert. Please send your child with a lunch if he/she has any food allergies or special dietary needs.*

**Snack Time:** We provide participants with small snacks during two designated snack times each day. If your camper has dietary needs or food allergies, please send them with two snacks each day, and ensure the allergies are listed on your camper’s registration medical form. Please note that the Kansas City Zoo cannot ensure a gluten-free/nut-free environment due to the diets of the animals.

**Movies:** Movies are played during certain times of camp. All movies are MPAA rated G or PG, and include, but are not limited to, Disney, National Geographic for Kids, and ZooLife™ with Jack Hanna.

**Emergencies:** If there is an emergency and you need to remove your camper early, please call the following numbers until you reach zoo staff:

816.595.1767 – Camp Programs Supervisor  
816.595.1765 – Education Reservations  
816.595.1234 – Zoo Switchboard

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What to bring: **fridge-free lunch, water bottle, sunscreen, hat, bug spray**
*Camp staff is not permitted to assist children with the application of any product, and campers are responsible for any items they bring to camp.

What NOT to bring: Money, jewelry, electronics, card games or collectables, fireworks, lighters, weapons, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, weapons, personal sports equipment, or other inappropriate items. These items will be confiscated and parent/guardian will be notified by the Camp Programs Supervisor. Child could be sent home immediately and told that he/she will not be allowed to return to camp.

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**BEHAVIOR POLICY**

**Behavior Management/Expectations:** To ensure a fun, productive, and safe environment, camp staff has developed a fair and effective behavior management strategy. We do not want a child’s inappropriate behavior to infringe upon others’ experiences or any animal’s safety. **Please review the following expectations with your camper before attending camp.**

- Stay with, listen to, and respect camp staff.
- Respect other staff, children, and visitors.
- Keep your hands to yourself.
- Don’t run. Walk on designated paths only.
- Leave no trace. Use the appropriate recycling and trash receptacles.
- Leave native animals, flowers, and plants for others to enjoy.
- Respect the animals. This means being quiet and not attempting to touch, tease, feed, or disrupt normal animal behavior.

**The Kansas City Zoo has the right to remove a camper from camp at any time.** The consequences for inappropriate behavior will be administered in the following sequence.*

1. First verbal warning.
2. Sit out next activity.
3. Camp Programs Supervisor calls parent contact.**
4. Camp Programs Supervisor calls parent/guardian and camper must leave zoo premises.**

*If a child’s actions are severe, steps may be skipped within this sequence.
**Consequences 3 and 4 will be recorded within a written report. This document will be available upon request.

**Note: There are no refunds when a child’s behavior requires he/she be sent home.**

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CAMP ACTIVITIES, GOALS, & OUTCOMES

Camp Activities:  Our day camp curriculums are designed to be age-appropriate and are properly supervised at all times. Camp activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Educational Games
- Science Experiments
- Zoo rides- train, carousel, and tram
- Crafts
- Educational Movies
- Zoo Tours
- Playground time
- Zoo Shows

There are some activities that may require more intense instruction and/or supervision. These activities may involve other departments within the zoo or are designated by their age appropriateness, developmental needs and safety concerns. Campers will be under the supervision of camp staff at all times. An activity of this nature may include:

Animal Encounter [4+ years]
Animal Ambassadors, accompanied by trained presenters, will visit the class for an up-close personal experience. At the discretion of the presenter, children may be allowed to touch these animals.

Behind the Scenes Tours [7+ years]
Campers will be able to tour non-public areas of several designated animal exhibits. These tours will be led by animal department staff while campers are in these areas. Camp staff will also be present.

Camp Goals & Outcomes: “The mission of the Kansas City Zoo Education Department is to positively change behavior by instilling in all people the desire and knowledge to respect and conserve wildlife and nature.”
With this in mind, camps at the Kansas City Zoo strive to... And as a result, Campers will be able to...

1. Introduce Campers to the Animal Kingdom and Nature, in general.
   a. Visit/Tour the zoo.
   b. Engage in at least 1 outdoor game/activity (beyond tours) each day.
   c. Encounter an animal 1 on 1 and perhaps even touch it.
   d. Distinguish between exotic and native animals as well as wild vs domestic.

2. Promote Scientific Discovery
   a. Participate or observe at least 1 science based experiment/activity.
   b. Use question based discovery to come to a solution or explain a proposed situation.
   c. Engage in hands on activities throughout their stay.

3. Explore the Natural History of Animals.
   a. Identify the 4 Basic Needs of all animals.
   b. Name the general Classes/Groups of animals and give at least 1 characteristic.
   c. Define the word “adaptation,” discuss it’s importance, and give an example.
   d. Distinguish between Carnivore, Omnivore, and Herbivore.

4. Stress the importance of Ecosystems and Habitats.
   a. Define and identify different types of Habitats and at least 1 animal that live there.
   b. Explain the inter-connectedness of all life in some way, shape or form.

5. Introduce campers to Animal Based Career Fields.
   a. Encounter, interact or observe other zoo staff while attending at least 1 zoo show, animal chat, behind the scenes tour, or specialized activity.

6. Help Campers take an active role in the Stewardship of our Environment.
   a. Identify Environmental Concerns (habitat loss, global warming, etc.) and list at least 2 ways they can take an active role to minimize the effects (recycling, reducing carbon footprint, etc.).
   b. Campers and staff will participate in recycling of materials such as aluminum cans, paper, cardboard, and plastic.

7. Provide Opportunities that stimulate Social Growth and Self-Esteem.
   a. Participate in getting-to-know-you games.
   b. Engage in team based games/activities.
   c. Provide positive comments and encouragement throughout team activities and camp in general.

(Depending on the length/type of camp, campers will accomplish at least 1 outcome, if not more, from each goal)

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a typical day of camp like?
Campers will:
- Touring the animal exhibits throughout the zoo.
- Experiencing education animals up-close-and-personal through animal encounters.
- Creating arts and crafts projects.
- Hands-on learning about animals through the use of biofacts (bones, pelts, feathers, etc.) and other interatives.
- Visiting shows, rides (excluding Sky Safari), and exclusive Zoo locations.
- Playing fun environmental education games and activities.

Who are the camp instructors?
- Instructors are selected based on experience working with children in a camp, school or environmental education settings, and they must have at least 2 years of college or professional experience in a related field.
- Instructors must be at least 20 years of age and pass a background check and drug test.
- Instructors are energetic, responsible and dependable and have an enthusiasm for wildlife and children.

What is the camper/instructor ratio?
- Ratios are based upon the age of the campers.
  Ages 4 to 6: 1 instructor for every 6 campers
  Ages 7 to 9: 1 instructor for every 8 campers
  Ages 10 to 15: 1 instructor for every 10 campers

- We utilize Kansas City Zoo Volunteers (ages 14-17) and Camp Assistants (ages 16-19) who may assist the instructors with camp groups between the ages of 4 and 9.

Does my child have to wear their camp shirt every day?
Yes please! We encourage campers to wear their camp shirts each day they attend camp. Campers may wear camp shirts from previous camp seasons. Additional shirts are available for purchase for $15. Please contact our reservations department at 816.595.1765.

Questions? CALL THE KCZoo Education Department at 816.595.1765 or 816.595.1770