We are so excited to spend the summer with you! Kansas City Zoo day camps are American Camp Association (ACA) accredited. This certification means that our camps meet or exceed standards of excellence in over 300 categories including health, safety, program quality and more. Please review the information in this packet with your camper before attending the program. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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RESERVATION POLICIES

- Full payment is due at time of making reservation.

- Zoo programs are rain or shine. However, programs may be cancelled due to severe weather. If a program must be cancelled due to severe weather, the Zoo will notify registrants of the cancellation prior to program start time. Registrants must notify all other participants they registered. If the entire camp is cancelled, a full refund will be issued, or registrant may reschedule. Only programs cancelled by Kansas City Zoo due to weather will be eligible for refunds.

- Programs may be cancelled due to low registration. If the Kansas City Zoo cancels a program due to low enrollment, the Zoo will notify registrants of the cancellation prior to program start time. Registrants must notify all other participants they registered. If this happens, a full refund will be issued, or registrant may reschedule. Only programs cancelled by the Kansas City Zoo due to low attendance will be eligible for refunds.

- Cancellations made more than two weeks prior to the program will receive a refund of 75% of the program fee. Cancellation requests received less than 2 weeks prior to the program start date will not receive a refund.

- A “no-show” is when a registrant does not appear for their scheduled program and did not notify the Kansas City Zoo Education Department. Refunds will not be issued for no-shows or early departure from program.

- 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.
CAMP INFORMATION

Camp Location  Day camp programming takes place within the Kansas City Zoo campus. The Education Department is based in the Zoo Learning Center located to the right of the Zoo entrance.

First Day of Camp  Check in takes place in the Sunroom of the Zoo Learning Center. Use the “Deramus Education Pavilion” entrance marked with the yellow sign. Arrive between 8:15am and 8:25am each day to sign in your camper. First Day Check-In includes registration verification as well as verification of camp policies, health forms, liability and talent release forms. You will also receive your camp T-shirt on the first day, with additional t-shirts available for purchase. Prompt arrival for First Day Check-In is suggested to get through the stations quickly.

Identification Cards  On the first day of camp you will receive two Identification Cards. These cards have your camper’s name and a unique code. You must have one of these cards or the unique code to pick up your camper. We cannot release a camper to someone without one of these Identification Cards or the unique code. If the person picking up does not have an Identification Card or the unique code, we will require a photo ID and will notify the Parent/Emergency contact for verification before the camper will be released.

Daily Sign-In  Sign-In takes place in the Sunroom of the Zoo Learning Center. Use the “Deramus Education Pavilion” entrance marked with the yellow sign. Arrive between 8:15am and 8:25am each day to sign in your camper. Camp begins at promptly at 8:30am. If late drop off is needed, please notify camp staff the day before. You must sign your camper in and out every day!

Daily Sign-Out  Sign-Out takes place in Classroom 2 of the Zoo Learning Center. Enter the doors near the greater station at the front entrance of the Zoo. The “Deramus Education Pavilion” doors will be locked. Arrive between 11:30am and 11:45am each day to sign out your camper. If your child has not been picked up by 11:45pm, you will be charged the $15 fee for late pick up. If early pick up is needed, please notify camp staff.

Before Care  Before Care is NOT an extension of camp. Before Care takes place from 7:30am-8:30am in the Zoo Learning Center. Those in Before Care may play games, color, or read from our science library. Before Care is $10 per day, per child. We encourage you to prepay when you register your child, but we do allow sign-ups as needed during the camp week.

Instructors  Our camp staff is selected based on many criteria. All camp staff have previous experience working with children and/or an educational background in science and/or education.
Dress For the safety of your child, camp shirts must be worn every day. Much of the day is spent outside, so make sure your camper is dressed for the weather! It can get extremely hot, so we recommend comfortable shorts or capri pants. Socks and closed-toe, closed-heel shoes are required. Sandals, flip flops, or Crocs are not allowed in most behind-the-scenes areas. If rain is in the forecast, send your child with a raincoat or poncho. Umbrellas are not allowed.

Snacks We provide participants with one small snack throughout the day. If your camper has dietary needs or food allergies, please send them with one snack each day. Please note that the Kansas City Zoo cannot ensure a gluten-free/nut-free environment due to the diets of the animals.

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

816.595.1765 – Education Reservations
816.595.1769 – Camp Programs Supervisor
816.595.1234 – Zoo Switchboard

What to bring water bottle labeled with camper name, sunscreen*, hat, bug spray* [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, e-cigarettes, personal sports equipment, animals 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 may not be allowed to return to camp.
BEHAVIOR POLICY

To ensure a productive, safe and fun environment, appropriate behavior is expected of half day camp participants. Please review the following expectations with your camper before the first day of camp.

- Respect Yourself
  - The zoo is open to the public - stay with your group at all times
  - Listen to all directions given by camp staff
  - Have fun!
- Respect Others
  - Keep your hands to yourself
  - Use walking feet on all designated paths
  - Follow all directions given by camp staff
- Respect Animals and the Zoo
  - Use appropriate recycling and garbage receptacles
  - Leave native animals, flowers and plants for others to enjoy
  - Observe our animal friends – do not touch, tease, feed or disrupt their behavior

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

1. Verbal Warning – Reminder of Behavior Expectations
2. Cool Down – Time out of next activity
3. Reset with Camp Supervisor – Separated from camp group**
4. Phone Call Home – Camp Supervisor calls Primary Contact**
5. Camper Dismissed – Camper must leave zoo premises with parent/guardian**

*If a child’s actions are severe, steps may be skipped within this sequence.
**Consequences 3, 4, and 5 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.
CAMP ACTIVITIES

Campers Will...
- Observe animals in exhibits throughout the zoo.
- Get up-close to Animal Ambassadors through Animal Encounters.
- Use the arts to create projects.
- Observe animal training sessions.
- Ride the tram, train and/or carousel.
- Get behind-the-scenes tours of exclusive Zoo locations.
- Play environmental education games.
- Collect data through science experiments and observations.
- Use biofacts (bones, pelts, feathers, etc) to learn.
- ...and so much more!

Curriculum The curriculum is designed to be age appropriate by Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Conservation Education Messages and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Some activities may require more intense instruction and/or supervision based on age, developmental needs, or safety concerns. 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.

Videos (4+ years)
Videos may play during certain times of camp, before care or after care. All videos or movies shown are MPAA rated G or PG, and include, but are not limited to, Disney, National Geographic for Kids, and ZooLife™ with Jack Hanna.
Half Day Summer Camp at the Kansas City Zoo

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.

Kansas City Zoo strives to...

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 its 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 how different forms and life can be connected.

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.

Ready to reserve your spot? Contact Reservations at (816) 595-1765 or education@fotzkc.org.  
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7. Provide Opportunities that stimulate Social Growth and Self-Esteem.
   a. Participate in get-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)*