

Zoo Camp Survival Guide

A comprehensive guide to Zoo Camp 2023



Excited to see you back at the Zoo this summer for our 100% outdoor zoo camp!

Camp Basics

What is a typical day at zoo camp?

Policies

Refunds, Policies, Procedures.



100% Outdoors!



Interactive Learning!



Animal Encounters!

Camp Basics

What is a typical day at zoo camp like?

Zoo Camp at the Cape May County Park & Zoo will immerse your child in the vast and unique world of animals. Campers will gain a wealth of knowledge about different animals and the environments in which they live. A different theme is highlighted each week and campers will:

- Meet our Ambassador Animals up-close and personal.
- Participate in interactive activities and games.
- Explore the ins and outs of the Zoo.
- Create nature related crafts.
- Go on nature hikes.
- Have an amazing summer!



Sample Camp Schedule: (will change daily)

- 8:55 am Camper Drop-Off
- 9:05 am Welcome activity
- 9:15 am Lessons / Presentations
- 9:40 am Zoo Time
- 11:00 am Snack Time
- 11:15 am Ambassador Animal Meet & Greet
- 11:30 am STEAM activity
- 11:55 am Camper Pick-up.

"It's hard to say. I've never seen him so excited on a daily basis. He came home every day excited about what he'd learned and spouting off facts left and right. He loved being able to actually work up close with so many animals. He's still talking about camp 2 weeks later!"

-Zoo Camp Parent

Camp Dates & Rates

AM Session Time: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. PM Session Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm **Zoology 101**: 9:00am-2:00pm

Week 1: Animal Detectives

Week 2: Artsy Animals

Week 3: Jr. Zookeeper

Week 4: Animal Ninja Warrior

Week 5: Shark Week

Week 6: Animals Around the World

Week 7: Jr. Zookeeper

Week 8: Dino Week

Week 9: Zoology 101 (Two-Day Class)

Staff

All camp counselors hired for this summer position are trained by the Education Department prior to the start of camp. Each counselor is also required to pass a background check and drug test through the county before being hired. Counselors may have a background in animal care, childcare, education, natural sciences, and/or environmental studies.

Snacks

All campers are asked to pack a light snack. Snack time will last about 10 minutes. We do ask that all campers have plenty of water or bring a reusable water bottle that can be refilled if needed.

Allergies and Medication

We ask that all allergies are reported to the Education Department at the time of your Zoo Camp registration. We take allergies very seriously at the CMC Zoo and we request as much information as possible prior to the start of camp to ensure a safe environment for your child.

The Education Department must be notified before the start of camp if medication must be packed with the camper. Zoo camp counselors will not be responsible for the housing and storage of any medications. Zoo camp counselors are not permitted to assist with any medication administration. In the unlikely event of an emergency the Sheriff Officer on grounds will be notified immediately.

Bathroom Independent

Children are required to be 100% bathroom independent and dress themselves. For safety reasons, the Zoo Camp staff do not go into the restrooms with campers to help them or dress them afterwards.

Sunscreen and Bug Spray

Sunscreen and bug spray should be administered before the start of camp.

Special Needs

The Cape May County Park & Zoo strives to provide a positive experience for all campers. Prior to registering, please contact the Education Department to discuss any specific needs of your child so we are prepared to provide the best experience for your child!

Outdoor Camp

Zoo Camp will be held entirely outdoors at one of our covered Pavilions, that are open to the air on all 4 sides. We will be outside utilizing our natural surroundings while learning about the nature world. There will be access to a handwashing station and restrooms.

Weather/Heat

Zoo Camp is rain or shine! Be sure to have rain gear packed for any inclement weather. On days where heat and humidity are a concern, Zoo Camp counselors will ensure that campers are drinking plenty of water and not overexerting themselves. Water games and activities may also be played to cool off at times. *Since camp will be entirely outside this summer, in the circumstances of an extreme weather event that will impact our ability to safely carry out class that day, zoo camp will be canceled.

Absence or Late to Camp

If your child is going to be absent or arriving late, please contact the Main Office at 609-465-5271 to let us know. Camp is **not** pro-rated by day and will not be refunded for a day missed.

Hand Washing

Campers will be instructed to wash their hands and sanitize frequently.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

CMC Zoo Camp Counselors will have cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting supplies to be used

throughout the day. We will be focusing on commonly touched items and areas such as tables, storage bins and activity materials.

Feeling Sick While at Camp

If a camper becomes ill while at camp, their parent and/or guardian will be notified so that the camper can be picked up.

What to Pack for Zoo Camp

Dress Code

1. Campers must wear their Zoo Camp T-shirt each day and should wear clothes they don't mind getting dirty. Light colored, light weight clothes are suggested for protection against insects and the sun.
2. Campers should wear comfortable shoes. It is important to have sturdy footwear as we will be walking through the zoo daily and going on nature walks. DO NOT wear flip-flops or open sandals.
3. On extremely hot summer days, campers may be involved with water games and activities (never swimming).

Backpack or Lunch Bag with Name

1. A full water bottle (preferably refillable). Please do not pack soda or disposable drink containers.
2. A healthy snack. Snack time lasts for 10-15 minutes each day. We ask that parents and guardians pack a small healthy snack for your camper.
3. Rain gear! Zoo camp will be outdoors rain or shine, muddy or dry! Please be sure your camper has a rain jacket or poncho, and appropriate footwear for rainy or muddy days. Please do not pack an umbrella.

Please DO NOT send the following items:

1. Aerosol containers: insect repellent, or sunscreen.
 2. Weapon-like items/ toys
 3. Valuable personal items/money
 4. Umbrellas
 5. Cell Phones/ Tablets
 6. Cameras
- * Technology can be a great tool to help explore the world but can also be very limiting to imagination and hands-on play. Therefore, cell phones and cameras are ONLY permitted to be carried if parent/guardian determines it is appropriate, however they will only be permitted to use them at designated times and no other electronic devices (i.e., gaming consoles) should be carried. If the camper is using their device inappropriately or causing distraction to other campers, Camp Counselors reserve the right to confiscate the device and return it at the end of the day.

Policies & Procedures

Drop-off & Pickup

Campers will be dropped off and picked up at the Pavilion 10 Parking Lot each day. Camp Counselors will be present to check-in campers.

Individuals authorized for pick-up must bring a valid ID. To provide a safe and secure environment for all campers, authorized individuals must be listed on the camper's registration prior to the start of camp. If there are any changes or additions to this list, the parent or guardian must email written confirmation to the Education Department at education@cmczoo.com prior to the start of camp.

We do not offer early drop-off or late pickup. If you are running late, please contact our Main Office at 609-465-5271 so arrangements can be made for someone to wait with your child.

Weekly Camp Registration

Summer Zoo Camp is designed to be a full week experience. If your child cannot attend the full week of camp the price is still \$160.

Camp Themes and Age Groups

All camp themes, lessons and activities are age-appropriate and designed for multiple learning styles. The lessons and activities will encourage individual expression and help promote collaborative skills. Campers must be able to engage in activities and lessons independently and in groups. For this reason, we DO NOT move a child up in an age group. We may allow children to move down an age group to be with a younger family member if space permits at the time of registration.

Ambassador Animal Interactions

During Zoo Camp campers will participate in several animal presentations with our ambassador animals. Our ambassador animals are not viewable to the public and only appear for special presentations and educational programming. During animal presentations, campers will get an up-close look at our ambassador animals as well as many bio-facts like skulls, feathers, and fur! All ambassador animals are always handled by our camp counselors or education staff.



For more Information...

For more information or additional Zoo Camp questions please contact our Education Department at 609-465-6832 or education@cmczoo.com