

Summer Zoo Camp Information and FAQs



Summer Zoo Camp at the Cape May County Park and 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 learn through hands-on lessons complete with biofacts, interactive activities, crafts and games. Our camps are broken up into different age groups and curriculum is designed accordingly.

Children will have fascinating adventures with the natural world at Zoo Camp. Each weekly session is filled with up-close animal encounters, behind-the-scenes experiences, hands-on activities, games, lessons and organized snack time.

All camp lessons and activities are age-appropriate and designed for multiple learning styles. Camp instructors will share their deep passion for the natural world. 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. Please contact us if your child needs special assistance to engage in independent and/or group lessons or activities.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Drop-off and Pick-up is located at the “Paws and Claws Education Station”. Our classroom is a blue building painted with animal artwork, just past the playground to the right in front of Bus Parking. You must sign your child in and out each day with one of our camp counselors. When dropping off or picking up, you may use the bus parking spots, but no longer than needed. Please be aware that our park and zoo has a strict 9^{1/2} mph speed limit.

Zoo Camp DOES NOT provide before and after care. Campers must be dropped off and picked up at the designated times.

What to Pack/Wear

- Closed toed shoes - Sandals/Flip-Flops are NOT permitted. We will be exploring outdoor areas. The camper will not be able to participate if they are not wearing the appropriate footwear.
- Water - We do not recommend sugared or juice drinks. We DO recommend reusable water bottles.
- Snack – Please pack a small snack. Snack time only lasts 10-15 minutes of the camp day.

- Zoo Camp Shirt – A shirt will be provided on the first day of camp. Please make sure your child is prepared to change into the Zoo Camp Shirt on the first day of camp. We ask that it is worn the entire week of zoo camp.
- Weather Appropriate Clothing - Please be aware of the weather for your week of zoo camp. Zoo Camp is a rain or shine program. Rain boots, jacket, rain gear may be needed. We will be outside for some of the day.
- Sunscreen and Bug spray – Sunscreen and Bug spray should be administered before the start of camp, you may also pack these items however zoo camp counselors are not permitted to apply these items.

What NOT to Pack

- CELL PHONES
- TABLETS
- CAMERAS
- Umbrellas
- Toys or stuffed animals
- Fidget Spinners
- Rollerblades, scooters, skateboards, hover boards, wheelie shoes, etc..
- Valuable Items and Money - The zoo is not responsible for any lost items, please leave valuables at home.

NOTE Zoo Camps are meant to be fun learning experiences where campers have the chance to immerse themselves in nature and learn about animals and the environment. 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.

Medications/Injuries

Lifesaving medications may be packed with the camper if necessary. Any medications should be administered before the start of camp. 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 Officers on grounds are notified immediately.

Animal Interactions

The campers will participate in several classroom animal presentations throughout their week of camp with our ambassador animals. Our ambassador animals are not viewable to the general public and only appear

for special presentations and education programming. During animal presentations, campers will get an up-close look at our education animals as well as many bio-facts like skulls, feathers, and fur!

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a waiting list for Zoo Camp? Yes, summer zoo camp sessions fill up quickly. We encourage you register as quickly as possible. However if the session you are interested in is full, we would be happy to put you on a waiting list.

Can I register for just one or two days of camp? Camp is designed to be a full week experience. If you are unable to attend a full week, camp is still the same price.

Can I stay with the camp? Unfortunately, as much as we would love to have you participate, our space is limited and camp is for children only.

Who is running the camp? Seasonal Camp counselors run the camp after receiving training from the Education Staff. We can assure you that each counselor was background checked and drug tested before being hired by the County of Cape May. Counselors may have a background in animal care, child care, education, natural sciences, and or environmental studies.

Should I pack my child's medication? Please administer any medication before coming to Zoo Camp. Our educators are not permitted to administer any medication. Please make education staff aware of any allergies or serious conditions prior to coming to camp. If any emergency should arise you will be contacted immediately along with the onsite Sheriff's Department and certified emergency medical personnel.

Can my camper bring a friend or a family member to zoo camp? No, unfortunately only pre-registered campers can attend. If you know anyone interested in Zoo Camp please tell them to contact our Education Department prior to the start of camp to see if there are any openings.

My child has special needs, will they receive one-on-one care? The Cape May County Park and Zoo tries to meet the needs of as many children as possible. Our zoo camp program is geared for children to engage in group activities that include "live" animal interaction, as well as interaction with children of the same age group. We do not have trained staff or extra personnel available for children with special needs. Please contact the Education Department before registering for zoo camp about any special accommodations that your child may need. We want to make sure zoo camp is an appropriate environment for your child.

The Education Department

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