



# CAMP DETAILS

## **What to Bring**

Campers should bring a positive attitude and their sense of curiosity! Dress in comfortable clothing that you don't mind getting a little dirty. All campers should bring a reusable water bottle, preferably with a strap. They may refill their bottle throughout the day using water fountains or ice coolers. Please label jackets, lunch boxes, water bottle, clothing, etc. Campers are expected to keep track of their own items. The Birmingham Zoo is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

*For Summer Zoo Camp:* Campers will receive a Summer Zoo Camp t-shirt on the first day of camp. Extra t-shirts may be purchased online for \$10 each. Be sure to pack swim clothes and a towel for "Water Day" on Wednesday.

## **What NOT to Bring**

Campers should not bring personal items such as electronics, game cards, money, jewelry, collectables, etc. The Birmingham Zoo is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Fireworks, lighters, and other dangerous/inappropriate items are not permitted. Any inappropriate items will be confiscated and returned to parents at the end of the day. Repeated violation may result in suspension from camp. Any illegal items will result in suspension from camp.

## **Grouping**

In order to ensure that all campers receive age-appropriate opportunities, campers are placed into groups each week based on grade levels. Only children with special needs will be considered for grade level change and the request must be approved by camp staff.

## **Camper Buddy**

Parents may request one buddy per camper. To ensure that camp ratios are met and everyone has a memorable, fun and safe camp experience, we cannot guarantee that campers will be placed in a particular group or with a camper buddy. There will

be occasions throughout the day when siblings and friends from different age groups will be participating in activities together (such as animal demonstrations, playground time and wildlife shows). Camp staff reserves the right to separate campers at any time. We cannot adjust camper groups after each camp session begins.

### **Lunch and Snacks**

A nutritious snack and lunch is provided daily to all campers. Lunch menus are provided in advance. Parents may choose to pack an alternate snack or lunch. Please make us aware of any dietary restrictions during the registration process. **For the safety of all campers, the Birmingham Zoo Camp program discourages any nut products to be brought into camp.**

### **Supervision and Safety**

All Zoo staff are screened before they are hired. In addition, trained teen and adult volunteers will assist teachers with camp. Class sizes average 12 students per teacher.

### **Communication**

Please ensure that we have your correct email address in order to receive important information prior to the first day of camp. In addition to email, the Zoo Camp at the Birmingham Zoo uses **Remind** – a free text messaging service which allows us to reach all parents/guardians quickly.

### **Behavioral Expectations**

All campers are expected to behave in a safe, respectful and courteous manner. In the event of behavioral concerns, corrective measures such as temporarily removing the disruptive camper from a group and/or consulting a parent/guardian may be used. Should a camper's behavior become a major distraction or is dangerous to others, the camper will be removed from camp and a parent or guardian will be notified immediately. The Birmingham Zoo reserves the right to remove a camper from camp at any time.

### **Allergy Alert**

All allergies should be disclosed during the registration process. Please indicate if food allergies are environmental or ingestion-only. Please note that the Birmingham Zoo uses nuts and nut products for animal diet purposes. Traces of nuts or nut products may be found in areas where animal feedings are conducted and in areas where animal demonstrations are performed. Despite our best efforts, we cannot guarantee your child will not be exposed to an allergen. **For the safety of all campers, we discourage any nut products being brought into camp.**

In the Education Department, safety precautions include:

- Teachers are trained to recognize the physical characteristics that indicate an allergic reaction is occurring and proper responses to take when a student has a reaction.

- Teachers are trained to properly use EpiPen.
- Teachers will not offer students any food containing nuts or nut products and all students will be discouraged from bringing snacks/lunches containing nuts or nut products.
- Teachers will ensure that no nuts or nut products are used as any part of class activities (not involving a live animal demonstrations)

### **Medical Policy and Procedures**

First Aid will be administered to campers with minor scrapes, cuts, bumps and insect bites by our First Aid staff. No child who is visibly ill, who has not been free from contagious illness, rash or fever for at least 24 hours should be brought to camp and no refund will be given. This includes campers who are sent home ill. Parents/guardians will be notified immediately if a child becomes ill.

Campers may self-administer medication, both prescription and over the counter under the supervision of a Zoo staff member as long as proper procedures are followed.

Emergency medications such as Epi-Pens, inhalers, etc. may be administered by a Zoo staff member as long as proper procedures are followed.

### **Weather**

Camp will be held rain or shine, unless weather forces the Zoo to close for the day. In the event the Zoo is closed due to inclement weather, you will be notified immediately.

### **Animal Contact**

For the safety of all, direct contact with Zoo exhibit animals is not possible. Campers will have opportunities to have up-close encounters with some of our Program Animals (ferret, snake, etc.) that they may touch to enrich their experience.



# RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Full Payment is due upon reservation.
- Class size is limited and is filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Advanced registration is required - Walk-up registrations are NOT ALLOWED.
- Zoo Members may not register non-custodial children, except for grandparents with memberships which include their grandchildren. Birmingham Zoo membership must be valid at time of registration.
- No refunds or make-up days will be allowed for missed days of camp.
- Transfer and changes of a registration are based on availability and cannot be guaranteed. A transfer or change request form must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the original session start date.
- Please note that falsification of any information (example: campers age or membership) will result in the camper's dismissal without a refund. **A copy of the camper's birth certificate may be requested at any time.**
- All sales are final.
- To redeem Summer Camp Flex Days, Camp Office must be notified the business day before your child will attend camp between the hours of 8am -3pm. Weekend and Holiday notifications will not be considered.
- Summer Camp Flex Days are not transferable or refundable and we do not prorate the Flex Days.
- Each child must have their own Flex Day Pack. Sharing days with friends or siblings is not allowed.
- A Flex Day Camper will receive one camp shirt for each 5 days purchased.
- Electronics, game cards, or other personal items are not permitted in camps, Early Care, or Extended Care.
- Severe environmental allergies to common zoo items (peanuts, latex, etc.) must be brought to Zoo staff attention at the time of registration. We will make reasonable accommodations whenever possible. We cannot guarantee non-exposure.

- If your child has special needs for learning or access, please discuss them with the Zoo Education Staff in advance so that we can help make the experience a success.
- All campers must be fully toilet-trained.
- Participation in Zoo Camp at the Birmingham Zoo grants permission for the Zoo to use photos, videos and other images of the participant in promotional materials, including website.
- *All rules and guidelines will be strictly enforced.*