



**ZOO**



**CAMP**

**AT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO**

Planning Guide 2019



- Camp Offerings from 4K to 12th Grade!
- Science, Tech, Engineering and Math Focus

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Dear Parents & Guardians,

We are excited to introduce our new and improved Zoo Camp at the Birmingham Zoo! Our summer camps have always been amazing, but this year we have revamped the program to include even more hands-on science, nature play, conservation and ‘zoo-learning’! Our camps are educational and encourage active learning through games, crafts, age-appropriate explorations, and special encounters with a variety of our resident animals. Rich in STEM-based explorations, these camps engage the natural curiosity of a child and allow ample opportunity to practice critical emerging science skills. Learning has never been so much FUN!

We hope you will join us this summer and give your child the educational opportunity of a lifetime...just don't be surprised when they are too busy having fun and making friends to notice how much they've learned. We have a wonderful summer planned and can't wait to share it with your child.

Sincerely,

Birmingham Zoo Camp Staff



# ZOO CAMPS OVERVIEW

Zoo Camps at the Birmingham Zoo are structured and follow a basic format. A typical day at Zoo Camp includes games, crafts, hands-on science explorations, exhibit tours, nature play and free-choice opportunities – time to allow kids to just be kids!

Zoo Camps at the Birmingham Zoo are rich in STEM explorations (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) creating opportunities for hands-on, brains-on fun! Each day also includes up-close encounters with many of our resident animals from around the world. Behind-the-scenes access and feeding/training demonstrations are also included whenever available.

## A SAMPLE DAY AT ZOO CAMP

8:30 am – 8:45 am	<b>Camper check-in</b>
8:45 am – 9:15 am	<b>Welcome, review of day's activities</b>
9:15 am – 10:00 am	<b>STEM exploration, craft or animal encounter/observation</b>
10:00 am – 10:15 am	<b>Snack</b>
10:15 am – 10:45 am	<b>Outdoor game</b>
10:45 am – 11:45 am	<b>Program discussion/Exhibit tours</b>
11:45 am – 12:30 pm	<b>Lunch/Free play recess</b>
12:30 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Cool down activity</b>
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<b>Zoo Exploration/Behind-the-scenes tour</b>
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>STEM exploration, craft or nature play activity</b>
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	<b>Daily wrap-up/Plan for next day</b>
3:15 pm – 3:30 pm	<b>Pack up</b>
3:30 pm – 3:40 pm	<b>Check out</b>





## KIDS DAY OUT CAMPS

Kid's Day Out Camps were developed with parents in mind. These camps are offered on typical school holidays throughout the school year. Camps run from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm.

### Pricing

- o Members: \$55 per day
- o Non-Members: \$65 per day

### Camp Dates

- o President's Day - February 18th
- o Labor Day - September 2nd
- o Columbus Day - October 14th
- o Veteran's Day - November 11th

## BREAK CAMPS

Break Camps at the Birmingham Zoo give your camper the chance to explore the Zoo in every season. Please check the Birmingham Zoo website for updates, registration and topics.

### Pricing

- o Members: \$55 per day
- o Non-Members: \$65 per day

### Camp Dates

- o Spring Break - March 25th - 29th
- o Fall Break - November 25th-27th
- o Winter Break - December 23rd, 27th, and 30th, January 2nd and 3rd

## EARLY CARE AND EXTENDED CARE

Zoo Camp at the Birmingham Zoo offers Early Care and Extended Care options for busy families who need childcare outside of usual Zoo Camp hours. Please note that Early Care and Extended Care provide supervised, quiet play time. It is not structured, instructional time.

### Early Care (Additional Fee)

- o \$5 per day
- o 7:30am to 8:15am

### Extended Care (Additional Fee)

- o \$10 per day
- o 3:30pm to 5:30pm

# SUMMER ZOO CAMP

## REGISTRATION AND FEES

Your camp fee includes all activities, supplies, one daily snack, daily lunch and one Zoo Camp t-shirt. Additional camp shirts are available for \$10 each.

### PRIMARY CAMPS

- o Member Pricing: \$260
- o Non-Member Pricing: \$295

### SPECIALTY CAMPS

- o Member Pricing: \$290
- o Non-Member Pricing: \$325

### NATURALLY GROSS GRANDPARENT/PARENT CAMP (3 DAY CAMP)

- o Member Pricing: \$250
- o Non-Member Pricing: \$280

\*Primary and Specialty Camps during Week 5 will be prorated due to the Independence Day holiday.

## FLEX DAY PACKS

Flex Day Packs are a great opportunity for parents who would like the option of "drop in" days throughout the summer. Once purchased, simply notify the Zoo Camp office one business day before you would like for your child to attend camp. Flex Days are sold in increments of 5 days. The minimum purchase is 5 days per child and the maximum is 10 days per child. Flex Days can only be used for 5K-5th grade and are good for 2018 Primary Camps only.

### FLEX DAYS

- o Member Pricing: \$320
- o Non-Member Pricing: \$355

\*All payments must be made via our online registration system.

## SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of scholarships may be available. Please email [camps@birminghamzoo.com](mailto:camps@birminghamzoo.com) stating your interest in a scholarship. If funds become available, we will notify you as soon as possible about the application process.



## SUMMER CAMP DESCRIPTIONS/ SCHEDULE

Grade	Week 1 June 3-June 7	Week 2 June 10-June 14	Week 3 June 17-June 21	Week 4 June 24-June 28	Week 5 July 1-July 3
4K-2nd	Creature Features	Creature Features	Natural Discoveries	Natural Discoveries	Naturally Gross!**
3rd-5th	Creature Features Jr. Zoo Keeper	Creature Features Jr. Zoo Keeper	Natural Discoveries Jr. Zoo Keeper	Natural Discoveries Jr. Zoo Keeper	Natural Discoveries Jr. Zoo Keeper
6th-8th	Zoo Keeper*	Wildlife Researchers	Zoo Keeper*	Nature Engineers	Zoo Keeper*
9th-12th	N/A	Animal Wellness	N/A	Conservation Connections	N/A

Grade	Week 6 July 8-July 12	Week 7 July 15-July 19	Week 8 July 22-July 26	Week 9 July 29-August 2
4K-2nd	Habitat Happenings	Habitat Happenings	Creature Features	Creature Features
3rd-5th	Habitat Happenings Jr. Zoo Keeper	Habitat Happenings Jr. Zoo Keeper	Creature Features Jr. Zoo Keeper	Creature Features Jr. Zoo Keeper
6th-8th	Zoo Keeper*	Wildlife Researchers	Zookeeper	Nature Engineers
9th-12th	N/A	Animal Wellness	N/A	Conservation Connections

\*6th-8th GRADE ZOO KEEPER CAMP - Monday and Friday begin at 8:30am; Tuesday through Thursday, begin at 7:30am

\*\*NATURALLY GROSS - Fee includes one student and one adult.

## PRIMARY CAMPS

### GRADES 4K – 5th

- o NEW! Creature Features – Explore how animals find their dinner, hide from predators, search for prey and use their fantastic features to survive and thrive in their environment.
- o NEW! Habitat Happenings – From the African Savanna to the Mountains of Asia, discover many of the world's habitats and the amazing animals that are adapted to live there.
- o Natural Discoveries – Campers will explore animals, ecosystems and the natural wonders from around the world and in our own backyards.

### GRADES 6th – 8th

- o Wildlife Researchers – Scientists use a variety of tools to find and study animals in the wild. Campers will take a look at what it takes to be a wildlife researcher and explore real-world efforts to ensure species and their homes, are safe and protected.
- o NEW! Nature Engineers – Animals are some of the greatest engineers on the planet. Campers will explore the many ways that animals manipulate their environment for their own survival as well as try their own hand at creating engineering marvels.

## SPECIALTY CAMPS

### GRADES 4K – 2nd

- o Naturally Gross! – Ewww! Ready to get your hands dirty, slimy, and sticky? Take a walk on the "wild side" with your grandparent or parent and learn about the grossest and most disgusting features of the natural world! Fee includes registration for 2 people. Independence Day Holiday week only.

### GRADES 3rd – 5th

- o Jr. Zoo Keeper – Experience some of the daily duties that go into caring for the animals that call the Zoo home. Campers will interact with Animal Care Professionals and our resident animals while exploring enrichment, animal diets, and more!

### GRADES 6th – 8th

- o Zoo Keeper – Roll up your sleeves and learn what it's like to be an Animal Care Professional at the Birmingham Zoo! Campers will take part in many hands-on activities including husbandry, feeding, training, and enrichment.

\*6th-8th Grade Zoo Keeper Camp begins at 8:30am on Monday and 7:30am sharp Tuesday-Thursday.

### GRADES 9th – 12th

- o Conservation Connections – With the Zoo as a base camp, we will explore conservation efforts taking place at the Birmingham Zoo and across the world. Campers will conduct observations, collect data, and participate in investigations to answer their own scientific questions.
- o Animal Wellness – Explore the methods Animal Care and Veterinary Professionals use to ensure our resident animals are happy and healthy. Activities will include demonstrations, behind-the-scenes tours and hands-on opportunities alongside Birmingham Zoo staff.



## CHIPANGALI WILDLIFE ORPHANAGE

Campers will have the opportunity to speak live via video conferencing with wildlife researchers at the Chipangali Wildlife Orphanage in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe!



# CAMP DETAILS

## What to Bring

- A positive attitude and a sense of curiosity!
- Comfortable clothes that can get a little dirty.
- Some camps will need water activity clothes and a towel on Wednesday.
- A reusable water bottle.

## What NOT to Bring\*

- Electronics, game cards, money, collectables, and jewelry.
- Fireworks, lighters, or other dangerous or inappropriate items.

## Grouping

- Campers will be grouped based on age for the best experience possible.

## Camper Buddy

- Parents may request one buddy per camper.
- We will try to fulfill all requests, but they are never guaranteed.

## Lunch and Snacks

- A nutritious snack and lunch will be provided.
- Lunches may be sent from home in a labeled lunchbox.
- Waste-free lunches are appreciated!
- Please, do not send items containing nut products.

## Supervision and Safety

- All Staff are screened prior to hiring and fully trained prior to Camp.
- Teen and adult volunteers assist our Camp Staff throughout the day.
- Class sizes are kept small, averaging 12 students per teacher and volunteer.

## Communication

- Ensure your information, including email, is up-to-date on the registration website.
- Download the Remind app to receive real-time safety notifications.

## Behavioral Expectations

- Zoo Camp is a safe, respectful, accepting, and courteous place for all.
- Corrective action will be taken for behavior that does not meet these expectations.

## Allergy Alert

- Please disclose all food and environmental allergies to Camp Staff.
- Traces of nuts may be found in areas that animal feedings and demonstrations take place.
- Staff are trained to recognize and respond to all allergic reactions.

## Medical Policy and Procedures

- First Aid will be administered for minor cuts, scrapes, bumps, and insect bites by First Aid Staff.
- Campers must be free of all symptoms of illness for 24 hours before attending Zoo Camp.
- Parents will be notified immediately if signs of illness appear.
- Campers may only self-administer medication.

## Weather

- Zoo Camp occurs rain or shine.
- Campers will spend a lot of time having fun outdoors. .
- Safety precautions will be followed in the event of inclement weather.

## Animal Contact

- For the safety of all, direct contact with Zoo exhibit animals is rarely possible.
- Birmingham Zoo Program Animals will be utilized for most up-close encounters.

\*The Zoo is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

For full Camp Details, Rules and Regulations, please visit

[www.birminghamzoo.com/education/zoo-camps](http://www.birminghamzoo.com/education/zoo-camps).