



2020 CAMP DETAILS

Welcome to Zoo Camps at the Birmingham Zoo!! We hope to provide your camper with a fun, unique, and educational experience here at the Zoo. Please review the following document thoroughly and let us know if you have any questions or concerns!

COVID-19 Statement: The Birmingham Zoo's Education Department takes the safety and wellbeing of our campers, staff and animals very seriously. While we cannot ensure 100% protection from exposure to the COVID-19 virus, Zoo Camp at the Birmingham Zoo will follow guidelines for summer camps issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), American Camp Association (ACA), Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) and Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH) to assist in providing the safest environment possible for campers. Parents are asked to review this document closely and email any questions to camps@birminghamzoo.com.

Prior to Attending

We request that families and staff self-monitor all members of their household for signs and symptoms for 14 days prior to attending Summer Zoo Camp. Any camper or staff member showing signs of COVID-19 or anyone who has been in close contact with another person with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 will not be allowed to participate in Summer Zoo Camp this season. Those at high risk for health problems should consider not participating in Summer Zoo Camp.

We ask that you spend some time, if you haven't already, talking with your camper about COVID-19 and ways that we can keep ourselves and others healthy.

[CDC: Talking with Children about COVID-19](#)

[CDC: Preventing the Spread in Children](#)

All staff and campers are asked to wear a facemask at Zoo Camp. *Please provide a mask that your camper can put on and take off themselves and practice wearing it prior to attending.* See below for more details regarding facemasks.

Drop Off and Pick Up

All staff and campers will undergo a quick health check prior to entering the Zoo for the day. This will include a temperature check with a no-touch thermometer and a few health-related questions. Anyone showing signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to attend Zoo Camp.

Drop off and pick up will be curbside this year. Walk up drop off will not be permitted. Drop off will take place from 8:30 AM - 8:45 AM in the pull-up lane at the far end of the parking lot near the Children's Zoo Breezeway gate. Follow the signs when you arrive, and please remain in your vehicle until a staff member greets you and performs the



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daily health check. Zoo Camp staff and volunteers will escort campers from car to their classroom. Parents will receive two color-coded and numbered cards on Mondays to be used for pickup during the week. Curbside pickup will take place from 3:00 PM – 3:15 PM in the same location. Walk up pick up will not be permitted. Please place the numbered pickup card on your dashboard so that it is visible to Zoo Camp staff.

No personal belongings, including backpacks, purses, etc., with the exception of raincoats will be allowed at Zoo Camp. If your child chooses to bring a lunch, it should be in a disposable container (paper bags are preferred).

Social Distancing

Each group will include the same children and staff for the entire week and groups will not participate in activities with others. Classrooms will contain no more than 12 individuals (up to 10 campers, 2 staff) at any given time and camper workstations will be spaced at least 6 ft. apart. Campers will be asked to practice proper social distancing while on Zoo grounds. Camp Teachers will review guidelines each day with their group. ***If you feel that your camper will have trouble following social distancing guidelines, Zoo Camp might not be the best option for them this season.***

In order to ensure campers follow social distancing guidelines at Zoo Camp, we will follow a 3-step intervention process.

- Step One: a one on one conversation will take place with that camper and parents/guardians will be notified immediately **via email** of step one intervention. If the occurrence happens within 30 minutes of the end of the day, notification will be given in person.
- Step Two: a second conversation will take place with the camper and parents/guardians will be notified **via phone call**. If the occurrence happens within 30 minutes of the end of the day, notification will be given in person.
- Step Three: parents/guardians will be notified and the camper will be picked up immediately and will not be allowed to return to Zoo Camp for the remainder of the 2020 season. A prorated refund will be processed.

In the event that a camper is participating in high-risk behaviors, refuses to follow social distancing guidelines or puts other campers or staff in immediate danger (i.e. coughing directly on someone), that camper will be sent home immediately, without following the 3-step intervention above. This decision is solely at the discretion of Zoo Camp staff.



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Daily Activities

During Zoo Camp, parts of the Zoo may be closed. We have modified our daily routines to make sure campers get to see as much of the Zoo as possible during their time with us.

Activities have also been modified to maintain distance between campers and items that cannot easily be cleaned and disinfected, including craft supplies, glue, etc. will be provided to each student individually. Outdoor activities will be encouraged over classroom activities.

Facemasks

All campers will be required to wear face masks at all times during drop off, pick up, transitioning from one location to another and other times when social distancing may be difficult. All campers will be highly encouraged to wear face masks throughout the day. Exceptions to this policy will be handled on a case by case basis.

Facemasks should be laundered by parents/guardians at the end of each day. If a facemask is not sent with child, one will be provided from the Birmingham Zoo Gift Shop and parent/guardian will be charged accordingly.

Daily Health Monitoring

All Birmingham Zoo staff and campers will be monitored throughout the day for signs and symptoms for COVID-19, including: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (100.4°F), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.

If a child or staff member develops signs of COVID-19, they will be escorted to an isolation room and parents will be called to pick them up.

The person with symptoms should follow [CDC guidance for what to do if you have symptoms for COVID-19](#) even if they have not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. If signs persist or get worse, call a health care provider for more guidance.

PLEASE NOTE: The employee or child's caregiver should inform the Zoo immediately if the person is diagnosed with COVID-19, even if they are no longer attending Zoo Camp.

A camper who has signs of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 can return to the Zoo when: they are cleared after having been evaluated by a medical professional; at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (defined as no fever without the use of medications and improvement in respiratory signs like



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cough and shortness of breath); and a negative COVID-19 test result is presented to Camp staff prior to the camper's scheduled return date.

A prorated refund will be issued for campers who are unable to return to camp as a result of these circumstances.

Closure of Zoo Camps

In the event that a camper or staff member is diagnosed with COVID-19, all individuals from that group will be dismissed for the remainder of the week and will receive a prorated refund. The cohort's classmates and staff are considered a close contact and should self-quarantine for 14 days.

Multiple diagnoses of campers and/or staff within a short timespan will be considered an outbreak. In the event of an outbreak of COVID-19, Zoo Camps will be cancelled for a full 14 days to allow all staff and campers to self-quarantine.

On days that campers will have to remain inside for more than half the day due to rain or severe weather, Zoo Camps will be cancelled and parents will be issued a prorated refund for that day. Closure decisions will be made by 3 PM the previous days.

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. Closed-toe shoes are recommended for all campers and required for Zookeeper Camp. All campers should bring a reusable water bottle, preferably with a strap. Please label jackets and water bottles. Campers are expected to keep track of their own items. The Birmingham Zoo is not responsible for lost items.

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.

For the 2020 Camp Season: Campers will be required to wear a facemask at Zoo Camp.



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What NOT to Bring

For the 2020 Camp Season: No personal belongings, including backpacks, purses, etc., with the exception of raincoats and re-usable water bottles will be allowed at Zoo Camp. If your child chooses to bring a lunch, it should be in a disposable container (paper bags are preferred).

Campers should not bring personal items such as backpacks, 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. The Birmingham Zoo is not responsible for lost or stolen items.

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

In order to encourage new friends at Zoo Camp, we no longer accept requests for Camper Buddies.

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.

For the 2020 Camp Season: Lunch boxes will no longer be allowed. If a lunch is sent to Zoo Camp, it should be packed in a fully disposable container.

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 10 students per teacher.



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For the 2020 Camp Season: All Zoo Camp staff and volunteers will participate in a health screening each morning when they arrive at the Zoo.

Communication

Please ensure that we have your correct email address and phone number in CampBrain in order to receive important information prior to the first day of camp. Also, please sign up for **Remind**, a texting service the Zoo uses for up-to-date information including severe weather. To register, send a text to **81010** with the message **@summerzoo**. Follow the text prompts to finish your registration.

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 on the camper's medical form. 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, allergen safety precautions include:

- Teachers 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 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)



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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 **72 hours** should be brought to camp. Parents/guardians will be notified immediately if a child becomes ill.

Campers may self-administer medication and sunscreens, 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 Cancellation

For the 2020 season, due to COVID-19 concerns, Zoo Camps will be cancelled when campers will have to remain indoors for more than half the day due to rain and/or severe weather. This weather call will be made by 3pm the day prior. A prorated refund will be offered.

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 Ambassador Animals (birds and reptiles) to enrich their experience.

COVID-19 Resources for Schools and Child Care

[CDC: CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again](#)

[ACA: Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance](#)

[Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus](#)

[CDC Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[Stop the Spread Poster](#)

[CDC Reducing Stigma](#)



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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 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 must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the original session start date.
- Registration for Zoo Camps closes at 4pm the Wednesday prior to the beginning of the Camp session.
- An additional fee of \$50 per camper will be incurred for every 15 minutes of supervision that is given after the close of Zoo Camp at 3:15 pm.
- 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.**
- Any credits offered for must be used within the same **calendar year**.
- Severe environmental allergies to common zoo items (peanuts, latex, etc.) must be noted on the Camper Medical Form in CampBrain. 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.*