

SUMMER TEEN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE



AT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

Planning Guide for
K-5 Zoo Camps and
Summer Teen Leadership
Experience 2024



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Dear Caregivers and Prospective Participants,

We are excited to introduce our **2024 Zoo Camps** and **NEW! Summer Teen Leadership Experience** at the Birmingham Zoo! While our K-5 camps encourage active learning through games, crafts, and age-appropriate explorations, our Teen Leadership Experience fosters social and emotional learning, leadership soft skills development, and sparks interest in environmental careers with special encounters with a variety of our resident animals and staff teams. Rich in STEM-based explorations, Zoo summer programs engage the natural curiosity of a child and allow ample opportunity for teens to practice critical emerging science skills.

We hope you will join us this year for an educational and developmental opportunity of a lifetime! We have a wonderful year planned and can't wait to share it with your kids and teens.

Sincerely,

Birmingham Zoo Learning Department Staff

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Youth programming at the Birmingham Zoo is structured and follows Alabama's competencies under the course of study for science.

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!

The **NEW! Summer Teen Leadership Experience** at the Birmingham Zoo focuses on STEM explorations (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), up-close encounters with our resident animals and staff, behind-the-scenes access, soft skills development, and methods to build the next generation of leaders in the community.

SAMPLE PROGRAM DAY:

| TIME | ZOO CAMP | TEEN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT |
|---------|---------------------------|--|
| 8:30am | Camper check-in | Participant check-in |
| 9:00am | Welcome, Daily review | Welcome, Daily review |
| 9:15am | STEM exploration | Leadership team challenge |
| 9:45am | Science craft | Behind the Scenes |
| 10:15am | Animal encounter | Behind the Scenes |
| 10:45am | Lunch | In-depth problem research, analysis & debate |
| 11:30am | Outdoor game | STEM exploration |
| 12:00pm | Science story time | Lunch |
| 12:15pm | Program discussion | Lunch |
| 12:45pm | Exhibit tour | Animal encounter |
| 1:15pm | Nature Play or Art | Leadership team challenge |
| 1:45pm | STEM exploration | Staff leadership Q & A |
| 2:15pm | Animal encounter | Leadership team challenge |
| 2:45pm | Behind the Scenes | Project time/ Solution analysis |
| 3:15pm | Daily wrap-up/ Plan ahead | Daily wrap-up/ Plan ahead |
| 3:30pm | Camper check-out | Participant check-out |





SPECIAL OFFERS

SUMMER FLASH SALE

The first **300 MEMBERS** registering for summer programming on **2/1/24** will receive an additional 10% off registration on top of the 15% standard member discount. Be sure to get your Member Discount codes and have an active Zoo Membership before 1/29/24. Contact membership@birminghamzoo.com or education@birminghamzoo.com to verify your Membership and receive your code.

ACTIVE MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Active members, reach out to education@birminghamzoo.com or membership@birminghamzoo.com to receive your discount code.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

A limited number of scholarships may be available. Please email education@birminghamzoo.com stating your interest in a scholarship, and list which season of camp you are interested in. If funds are available, we will notify you as soon as possible about the application process.

ZOO STAFF

All full-time BZI staff members may receive one free week of Zoo Camp per household. Each additional week is half-price. Email education@birminghamzoo.com for your unique discount code.

BREAK CAMPS

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Break Camps at the Birmingham Zoo give K-5th graders the chance to explore the Zoo in every season. Please check the Birmingham Zoo website for updates and registration materials approximately 6 to 8 weeks in advance of camp season start dates.

PRICING

Members: \$65 per day
Non-Members: \$80 per day

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

CAMP DATES **Subject to Change*

Spring Break: March 25-29

Fall Break: November 25-27

Winter Break: December 16-20; 26-27



SUMMER ZOO CAMPS

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Your summer registration fees include all activities, supplies, one daily snack, and one Zoo t-shirt. Additional shirts are available for \$12 each. Registration opens around February and will close in May.

ZOO CAMP RATE

Member Pricing: \$340

Non-Member Pricing: \$400

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

ZOO CAMPS (For finishers of Kindergarten-5th grade)

CREATURE FEATURE – Explore how animals use their fantastic features to survive and thrive in their environment. Lessons focus on whiskers, tooth design, opposable thumbs, beaks, patterns, and more!

NEW! HIDE & SEEK CAMP – Campers embrace and learn about the senses like never before, in this exciting exploration of how the natural world uses sight and sound to survive, even in changing environments. Filled with opportunities to problem solve and get creative, this camp inspires the youngest minds to think and SEEK outside the box!

ZOO RANGER – Learn from the experts what it means to enrich, care for, and protect animals in this exciting week filled with behind the scenes knowledge. Perfect for those young campers just learning what it takes to care for others or try out some mini responsibilities.

K-5TH SUMMER ZOO CAMP SCHEDULE

| Grade | Week 1* May 28 - 31 | Week 2 June 3 - 7 | Week 3 June 11 - 14 |
|---------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| K-2nd | Creature Features | Hide and Seek | Zoo Ranger |
| 3rd-5th | Creature Features | Hide and Seek | Zoo Ranger |

| Grade | Week 4* June 17-18, 20-21 | Week 5 June 24-28 | Week 6 July 15-19 |
|---------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| K-2nd | Creature Features | Hide and Seek | Zoo Ranger |
| 3rd-5th | Creature Features | Hide and Seek | Zoo Ranger |

| Grade | Week 7 July 22 - 26 | Week 8 July 29-Aug2 |
|---------|------------------------|------------------------|
| K-2nd | Creature Features | Hide and Seek |
| 3rd-5th | Creature Features | Hide and Seek |

* Indicates a shortened week due to federal holidays.



SUMMER TEEN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

REGISTRATION AND FEES

Your summer registration fees include all activities, supplies, one daily snack, and one Zoo t-shirt. Additional shirts are available for \$12 each. Registration opens around February and will close in May. For finishers of 6th-12th grades.

STANDARD RATE

Member Pricing: \$340
Non-Member Pricing: \$400

SPECIALTY RATE

Member Pricing: \$420
Non-Member Pricing: \$480

*All payments must be made via our online registration system

STANDARD WEEKS

PROJECT EARTH FORCE – This week will guide teens to investigate, plan, and create actionable solutions for their communities. Teens will learn and practice sharing power with adults, democratic decision-making, and civics principles to ignite a new generation of community organizers and leaders.

ZOO LEADERS – Teens will transform their essential soft-skills in a week built around trust, communication, listening, cooperation, and problem-solving. This intensive team-building program will allow teens to learn from the animal kingdom and one another to shape our next generation of heroes for the planet.

SPECIALTY WEEKS

"FZLA" – Are you a Future Zoo Leader of America? Teens deep dive into the many departments that run the Zoo and parallel those in peer environmental organizations. As a specialty week, teens will have extra opportunities to engage in demonstrations, behind-the-scenes tours, and hands-on experiences while exploring roles covering Education, Media, Research, Vet Science, Animal Care, Events, Horticulture, and Conservation.

ZOO KEEPER – Roll up your sleeves and learn what it's like to be an advocate for animals! Teens work alongside and support projects for the Animal Care Professionals in Zoo husbandry, feeding, training, enrichment, and more.

***Zookeepers Require 8:30am Check-in Monday and 7:30am Check-in Tuesday – Friday**

SUMMER TEEN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE SCHEDULE

| Grade | Week 1* May 28 - 31 | Week 2 June 3 - 7 | Week 3 June 11 - 14 |
|----------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 6th-12th | Earth Force | Zoo Keeper | "FZLA" |
| Grade | Week 4* June 17-18, 20-21 | Week 5 June 24-28 | Week 6 July 15-19 |
| 6-12th | Zoo Leaders | Zoo Keeper | Zoo Keeper |
| Grade | Week 7 July 22 - 26 | Week 8 July 29-Aug 2 | |
| 6-12th | Earth Force | Zoo Leaders | |

* Indicates a shortened week due to federal holidays.



CAMP DETAILS

What to Bring

- A positive attitude and sense of curiosity
- Comfortable clothes that can get a little dirty
- Water activity clothes and a towel on Tuesdays
- A reusable water bottle
- Close-toed shoes for all teens

What NOT to Bring

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

Grouping & Supervision

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

Classes average 12-15 students per teacher and 2-4 volunteers

Needs for accommodation should be emailed to education@birminghamzoo.com

Lunch and Snacks

As of 2024, lunches will not be provided to campers. Caregivers are required to pack an allergen-free daily lunch for their camper or teen. A daily snack will be provided by the Zoo to all participants.

Communication

Ensure your information is up-to-date on the registration website for contact

Behavioral Expectations

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

Allergy Alert

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

Medical Policy and Procedures

Campers must be free of contagious symptoms for 72 hours before attending. Caregivers will be notified immediately if signs of illness appear.

First Aid will be administered for minor cuts, bumps, and insect bites by staff. Campers may only self-administer medication which has been documented and provided to staff at the start of the day.

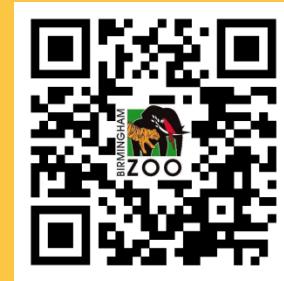
Weather

Zoo programming occurs rain or shine. In the event of severe weather, programs may be delayed, end early, or cancelled.

Animal Contact

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

For full details, rules and regulations, visit www.birminghamzoo.com/zoocamps.



Have a teen who would rather volunteer or volunteer in addition to attending summer programs?

Check out the Teen Volunteer webpage!



SCAN ME

Looking for more specifics or scholarship options? Check out many resources via the QR code above!

