Zoo Camp 2022 Parent Packet

Thank You!
We are so happy that your camper is spending this summer with us here at the Chattanooga Zoo! This parent packet is designed to answer any questions you may have and to help create the best experience for your camper. In the pages ahead, you will find contact information, basic camp information, health & safety information, and an overview of our behavior policy and action plan. By sending your child to camp, you are agreeing to all policies stated in this document. If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call the Zoo Camp Contact listed below.

Zoo Camp Contact: Mariel Cuellar, Youth Programs Coordinator
Email: mcuellar@chattzoo.org
Phone: 423-697-1322 ext. 5789

What to Expect at Camp

Activities & Schedule
A general activity schedule will be sent before the first day of camp. All activities listed are subject to change and may be adjusted day of due to weather, animal considerations, etc. We ask that parents/guardians do not accompany their campers at camp.

Lunch & Snacks
Lunch is not provided. Please remember to pack your camper a nut-free, low waste lunch (reusable containers encouraged!) A snack will be offered each day. We will accommodate as best as possible for food allergies, but will not be able to accommodate for preference. If your camper is a picky eater, or you are concerned about food intolerances, you are welcome to pack a snack for your camper! Please do not pack any nut products.

Field Trips
All groups will take one field trip per week. Past field trips have included visits to the Creative Discovery Museum, Reflection Riding, Enterprise Nature Center, Hunter Museum, and others. Campers will take a school bus from the zoo to the field trip location and then back to the zoo. Campers will bring their lunch and water on field trips. We will be complying with all guidelines that these institutions have in place when we visit (i.e. mask requirements, separate permission forms, etc.) Campers will receive a t-shirt with their registration and will be asked to wear this shirt on the day of the field trip.

Pool Day
All groups will also visit the Warner Park Pool & Splash Park during their week of camp. This facility is fully staffed with lifeguards. Life vests are available at the pool and may be required by lifeguards if they feel a camper would be safer wearing one.
The facility has a splash pad area with dumping buckets and sprinklers, two small pools (2 feet deep or less), and one large lap pool (4 feet and deeper). The lap pool has an area roped off for swimming and an area with inflatable obstacle courses. Campers entering 1st Grade and younger will be restricted to the small pools and the splash pad area. Campers entering 2nd Grade and older will have the option to take a swim test in order to have access to the lap pool and obstacle courses without a life vest. If they do not pass the swim test or do not want to take it, they can still access the large pool and obstacle course, but they will be required to wear a life vest.

What to Bring to Camp

Included in Registration

One Zoo Camp shirt is included in your registration and will be provided at check-in. If you purchased additional shirts or a Zoo reusable water bottle during registration, these will also be provided during check-in. You can also make these purchases at a later time ($10/shirt, $2/water bottle). We accept cash, check, and cards.

What to Wear

- Closed-toed shoes are mandatory.
- Camp activities will be held outside throughout the day. Make sure campers are dressed for the weather (hot days, rainy days, etc.)
- Sometimes camp activities can get messy! Don’t let your camper wear their favorite outfit if they will be upset that it gets dirty.

What to Pack

Make sure the following things are packed in a day bag and ready to go for camp!

- A low waste, nut-free lunch and any snacks your camper may want. Reusable containers are encouraged!
- Reusable water bottle – this is very important as campers spend a good part of the day outdoors! We will provide campers with a clean water bottle for the day if they forget their own.
- Sunscreen! Staff will implement sunscreen breaks throughout the day. If you are concerned about your camper’s ability to apply their own sunscreen, please pack spray-on sunscreen for staff to use. We will have a limited supply of spray-on sunscreen if a camper forgets their own.
- Clothes to swim in, a change of clothes, and a towel on pool day
- A change of clothes when advised by Zoo Staff
- Bug spray is recommended

Morning Drop-Off

Check-In Policies

- Staff will be available for check-in from 8:45 - 9:30 each morning
- You will need to park your car and walk your camper(s) to the check-in area. Staff will be located to the left of the ticket booth near or under the pavilion.
• You will sign your camper(s) in. This signature will certify that you and your camper(s) are covid-19 and covid-19 symptom free.
• You will verify all information on camper forms. Be sure to check your camper’s authorized pick-ups to see if any last minute changes need to be made. Kid Codes will be available for review.
• You and your camper will be directed to their counselor and group
• If you are going to be late checking in, please call or email ahead so that we can be prepared for your arrival.

**Afternoon Pick-Up**

**Check-Out Policies**

• Camper check-out will occur form 3:00pm – 3:30pm in the same location as check-in.
• You will be asked to provide your Kid Code. Anyone who does not provide the correct Kid Code must show ID.
• Zoo Staff will bring your camper out to you.
• Please do not enter the Zoo for camper pick-up.
• If you are going to be late picking up, please call or email ahead.

**After Care**

• After Care will begin at 3:30pm and will end at 5:00pm when the zoo closes.
• Please enter the Gift Shop or go up to the ticket booth when you arrive for After Care pick-up.
• The employees there will ask for your Kid Code and then radio to Camp Staff and we will bring your camper out to you.
• Extended Care can be added day of, if necessary, for $20/day or $80/week. We accept cash, check, and cards.

**Camp Expectations**

**Zoo Camp Rules**

At Zoo Camp we:

• **ARE RESPECTFUL.** Treat others like you would like to be treated. We are respectful to our fellow campers, counselors and other Zoo Staff, animals that live at the Zoo as well as the nature around us, Zoo property and equipment, and ourselves!
• **LISTEN** to our fellow campers, counselors, and other Zoo Staff.
• **KEEP OUR HANDS TO OURSELVES.** Hands are for helping each other – not hurting. We will never use our hands, feet or other objects to hurt another living thing. We will do our best not to touch others or their items. (Please do not bring toys, cards, and/or games from home.)
• **STICK TOGETHER.** Always stay with your group! We have more fun when everyone is together.
• **WALK.** When we run, we can lose our group, trip and fall, hurt ourselves or hurt others.

**Behavior Action Plan**
Zoo Camp staff are experienced in working with children and are trained in handling all types of behavior. However, we do recognize that children don’t always follow the rules, and in these cases, we have a specific behavior action plan that our staff will follow.

- Staff will first give a warning and reminder of the rules. They will suggest an alternate behavior that is acceptable.
- Staff will require the camper to take a break or sit out from an activity.
- Staff will call a parent or guardian to discuss the behavior with their camper.

Depending on the severity of the behavior, steps may be skipped at staff discretion. If a camper’s behavior is endangering the safety of staff, other campers, or themselves, or is continually disrupting camp activities, a camper may be sent home and/or asked not to return to camp. Refunds will not be issued for missed camp in these cases.

**Health & Safety**

**Covid-19 Policies**

- Each morning, adults will agree to a health waiver stating neither they nor their camper(s) have any covid-19 symptoms nor have they been around anyone who does.
- Touch opportunities during animal meet & greets will be allowed on a case-by-case basis.
- Campers may be required to wear masks, gloves, and/or other PPE when in certain areas or around certain animals, regardless of vaccination status.
- We ask that campers leave toys/games/cards from home at home.
- Masking policies are subject to change.
- We will be following CDC and Hamilton County guidelines for quarantine if a camper or camp staff member tests positive for covid-19.

**In Case of Emergency**

**Minor Injuries or Illness**

- All of our staff are First Aid certified and will handle minor injuries during camp. You will be notified at the end of the day of any minor scrapes or bruises.

**Serious Injuries or Illness**

- If a serious injury or illness occurs, emergency services will be contacted first, if necessary. We will then notify the registered parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, we will then reach out to the emergency contact listed and go through the authorized pick-up list.

If you would like to add an additional emergency contact not on the list, please email mcuellar@chattzoo.org or education@chattzoo.org. You may also add an emergency contact at check in.

**Let’s Go to Camp!**

**We Can’t Wait for Our Adventure**

We are so excited to spend this summer with your campers! By sending them to camp, you agree to all information provided in this packet. If you have any questions regarding the information provided here, please contact either Mariel at mcuellar@chattzoo.org or the General Education email at education@chattzoo.org.