

Summer Day Camp

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What documents do I need to submit in order for my child(ren) to attend camp?**
Completing registration online or sending in a registration packet with payment will reserve your child's spot in an available camp. Registration must be completed at least 10 days prior to the camp. Following that, you have up to 7 days before the camp starts to send in a signed Medical Treatment Release with Immunization records. If your child has attended previously and you sent in immunization records we may still have them on file.
- **What do I do if online registration doesn't work?**
Please download the registration packet by clicking on the "Register by Mail" option and send it back with your payment using email, regular mail, fax, or in person. Phone registrations are not accepted.
- **Who supervises my child during Summer Day Camps?**
We will staff at least 2 adults per week and have extra help as needed. Our child to adult ratio is typically 10:1. The camps will be managed by Amy Wesner.
- **Will campers spend time with others close to their age?**
Each week of camp will allow for up to 20 preregistered campers entering grades 1st – 7th. Throughout the day, we will separate them into age appropriate learning environments when they participate in certain activities. All ages will report to the same location for drop off, pick up, lunch, and assemblies.
- **What will my child do at camp?**
Each camp week has a different topic, though many activities will reflect on our mission of connecting campers to nature and inspiring their participation in conservation efforts. There are some things you can expect to happen each week such as; meeting live animals; group activities; craft time; feeding giraffes; learning new things and having fun experiences; before the week is out we'll explore every inch of the zoo and spend a lot of time outdoors hiking in a natural setting!
- **What time should we arrive for the program?**
Your child's camp will begin promptly at 9:00am and end at 4:00pm. Drop off begins no earlier than 8:50 am and Pick up begins no earlier than 3:50 pm. Please remain in your vehicle if you are early to lessen the chance of disease transmission.
- **Are there extended care hours?**
There will not be extended care hours during the 2021 camp season.
- **Where do we meet before and after the program?**
All camps will meet at the Oak pavilion at the top of the hill parking lot in our picnic area for both drop off and pick up. Once registered, please check your email for pictures of the meeting area, we will have signs posted for you to follow on your way in to camp each day. Please remember you must sign your child in and out each day when you arrive.
- **What if I am running late?**
Drop off ends at 9:00am and pick up ends at 4:00pm. If you will be arriving late for drop off or pick up, please call the zoo office at (269) 979-1351 and the receptionist can let the camp staff know. A late drop off or pick up fee of \$5 per every 15 minute interval will be strictly enforced.

- **Can I pick up early?**

To pick up early from camp, please give us as much notice as possible by informing Amy Wesner ahead of time. If you must pick up without notice please call the zoo office (269) 979-1351 so the receptionist can let camp staff know. There may be a delay in meeting you depending on the area we'll be visiting that day.

- **Can I authorize someone else to pick up my child?**

Yes, if the person signing the child in will not also be picking them up, please let us know during registration the names of those authorized to pick up your child. We will only release your child to those who are listed ahead of time and we may ask them to present identification during pick up.

- **What if the weather is bad?**

We run camp programs rain or shine. Please dress your child for the weather. We will not remain outside in severe weather and may need to use designated storm shelters within zoo. If it is storming during pick up please follow the signs to the zoo office, our designated shelter location.

- **What safety protocols will the zoo enforce this year?**

- **Social Distancing:**

Camps will take place outdoors in areas where campers will have the space to remain six feet apart. Campers can still expect to visit inside of the zoo, at which time they will need to wear their masks, as we will be around other zoo guests. We will give campers a break from wearing their masks while on our hiking trails in the woods and at the pavilion as long as there is space to stay the appropriate distance apart.

- **Daily Health Screening:**

We will present the adult dropping off with a health questionnaire each morning that must be filled out and signed for each camper. We will also be using a forehead thermometer to check campers for fevers each day. If a child has a temperature greater than 100.3, other symptoms of COVID-19, or has an exposure risk, they will not be permitted to attend camp. In the event that a child shows symptoms during the day, a parent or guardian will be called to pick up the child early.

- **What should my child bring to camp?**

- **Hand sanitizer and face mask**

Campers should bring their own hand sanitizer and are required to bring their own mask each day to wear as instructed in certain areas of the zoo. We will be diligent in monitoring each camper and ask that you help your child to understand the importance of these safety measures.

- **Sunscreen and Bug Spray**

If necessary please apply or send sunscreen and bug spray for your child. We will be outside most of the day. If sending these items to camp, they should be packed in a backpack and only used outside as instructed.

- **Appropriate Clothing**

Please have your child dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes - **no flip-flops**. Sending a change of clothing is also suggested in case your child gets dirty or wet during sprinkler play on hot days. Camp t-shirts are \$12 and can be purchased anytime with cash, check, or credit card. Pre-ordered shirts will be handed out on the first day of camp.

- **Re-usable Water Bottle**

Please send your child with a reusable water bottle each day, we have several water refill stations and will be encouraging campers to stay hydrated while using ecofriendly options.

- **Medications**

If sending medications and Epi-pens to camp with your child, please list them on the medical treatment release form with instructions for use. Camp staff is certified in emergency procedures through the American Heart Association.

- **Lunches and snacks**

Please send a sack lunch with your camper(s) Monday - Thursday. We will provide cheese and pepperoni pizza for lunch on Fridays as a special treat included in the cost of the camp. We will offer snacks to campers each day. We may serve applesauce, granola bars, rice krispie treats, s'mores, cookies, chips, pudding, etc. Please feel free to send extra snack items as you see fit and inform us of any allergies on the Medical treatment release form.

- **May my child bring personal belongings like an iPod, cell phone, or tablet, etc.?**

We recommend that all items of value stay at home. The zoo is not responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged items while at camp. We understand the desire to take pictures; if camera devices are brought to camp, they should only be used at appropriate times as approved by the camp staff.

- **Are T-shirts included with the camp fee?**

No, T-shirts are \$12.00 each in addition to the camp fee. It is recommended that you pre-order during registration, though t-shirts may be purchased at any time during camp as well. Campers will receive their pre-ordered shirts on the first day of camp.

- **Are there discounts for members or for purchasing multiple weeks?**

There will be no discounts offered during registration for the 2021 camp season.

- **I need to cancel a camp, what should I do?**

Please notify Amy Wesner at (269) 979-1351 or awesner@binderparkzoo.org. Binder Park Zoo's refund policy is as follows:

- Up to 5 Business Days Prior: 50% will be refunded *or you may move to another camp after paying a \$10 transfer fee.*
- 0-4 Days Prior: No refund; *must re-register for another camp and pay full amount*
- Full refunds are only issued when BPZ cancels a camp due to low enrollment in that age group or there are extenuating circumstances

- **What is your policy on behavior?**

Campers are expected to behave appropriately to ensure an enjoyable and safe experience for all. In the event a child is disruptive, time-out may be used. If the disruptive behavior continues, the parent/guardian will be called to help find a solution. If improvement is not realized, the child may be asked to not return to camp or may require an adult chaperone attend for the week free of charge. **We reserve the right to refuse enrollment to anyone or dismiss without refund any student for behavioral issues.**