

# Summer Day Camp

## Frequently Asked Questions:

- **What documents do I need to submit in order for my child 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 start date, this includes sending 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 up to 3 experienced adults per week who will have extra help from adult/teen volunteers as needed. Our child to adult ratio is typically 10:1. The program coordinator and will monitor all camp activity.
- **Will campers spend time with others close to their age?**  
Each week of camp has 40 spaces for preregistered campers entering grades 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>. We will separate campers into two age appropriate learning environments during each week of camp. All ages will report to the same location for drop off and pick up.
- **Can my child attend if they are younger or older than the age requirements?**  
Campers must be at least 6 years old or entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade in the fall to attend camp. Once a child reaches 13 years or is entering eighth grade we refer them to Binder Park Zoo's ZooTeen volunteer program. The type of activities and social environments experienced during camps can be very difficult to maneuver for children that are younger than 6 years or older than 12 years.
- **What will my child do at camp?**  
We strive to offer unique activities from week to week as we reflect on our mission of connecting campers to nature and inspiring their participation in conservation efforts. Each camp week has a different topic, though some things can be expected 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 help us by remaining in your vehicle if you are early to either; we will be working hard to prepare for you while keeping everyone safe.
- **Where do we meet before and after the program?**  
All camps will meet at a designated area for both drop off and pick up. Once registered, please check your email for important camp information including directions to the meeting area. Please remember all adults must sign campers in and out each day at both drop off and pick up. \* *In the event of severe weather the meeting location may change, please watch for posted signs on your drive in and inform anyone else dropping off or picking up.*

- **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. If you must pick up without notice please call the zoo office (269) 979-1351 so the receptionist can inform us. 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 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.
- **Are there extended care hours?**  
 We are not able to offer extended care hours during the 2022 camp season.
- **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. *\* In the event of severe weather the meeting location may change, please watch for posted signs on your drive in and inform anyone else dropping off or picking up.*
- **What safety policies will the zoo enforce this year?**
  - **COVID-19 Precautions:**  
 Camps will take place primarily outdoors. Campers may be asked to wear a mask while indoors. We will be diligent in monitoring each camper and ask that you help your child understand the importance of these safety measures. Campers are not required to have a COVID-19 vaccine prior to camp. This policy is subject to change at any time.
- **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.
  - **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 small jacket, hat, and a change of clothing is suggested. Some mornings are chilly and campers may get dirty or wet throughout the day.
  - **Re-usable Water Bottle**  
 Please send a reusable water bottle each day, we 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 two snacks to campers each day. We may serve granola bars, rice krispie treats, s'mores, fruit snacks, chips, goldfish crackers, popcorn, 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 strongly 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 however, cameras and cell phones can be extremely disruptive during camp. We'd prefer these items be pre-approved with the program coordinator prior to sending them to camp.

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

T-shirts are \$15 each in addition to the camp fee. We also offer a Gear Package for \$35 that includes a drawstring backpack, T-shirt, collapsible water bottle, bug repellent wipes, and a select animal plush. It is recommended that you pre-order during registration, though items may be purchased at any time during camp as well. Campers will receive their pre-ordered items on the first day of camp.

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

There are no discounts offered during registration for the 2022 camp season. The price reflects a flat member rate of \$200 per week for all participants.

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

Please notify the program coordinator at (269) 979-1351 or [awesner@binderparkzoo.org](mailto:awesner@binderparkzoo.org). Binder Park Zoo's refund policy is as follows:

- Summer Day Camps run rain or shine
- There are no partial refunds for missed days
- Cancellations received at least 5 business days prior will be refunded or transferred as long as the cancelled space is filled before the camp starts, a \$10 processing fee will apply.
- Cancellations received 0-4 business days prior: No refund, no transfer. Must re-register and pay again.
- Full refunds or transfers will only be issued if Binder Park Zoo must cancel a camp due to extenuating circumstances or there is low enrollment in a certain age group.

- **Do you offer accommodations for campers with special needs?**

Campers of all ability levels are welcome to attend Summer Day Camp! Please let us know during registration if your child has any special needs that we should be aware of. We will work with you to make reasonable accommodations, though we are not able to provide one-on-one assistance during camps. Should your child require assistance you may be asked to secure an adult chaperone or aide to accompany them for the week free of charge.

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

Campers will be expected to follow rules similar to being in school and behave appropriately during camp to ensure an enjoyable and safe experience for all. Every day that campers behave appropriately they will receive a reward at pick up, this helps us encourage good behavior and gives parents/guardians a front row seat to their child's success and overall experience while at camp.

If disruptive behavior persists, the parent/guardian will be notified of the behavior in order to find a solution. If the disruptive behavior continues without improvement, the child may be removed from camp, or you may be asked to send an adult chaperone or aide, free of charge, that can help supervise them for the remainder of the week. We reserve the right to refuse enrollment to anyone or dismiss without refund any camper for behavioral issues. Violent or threatening behavior of any kind will result in an immediate dismissal from camp. We have a zero tolerance policy when situations like bullying, disagreements, or outbursts result in threatening language or violent advances towards oneself, other campers, or zoo staff.