Thank you all for a great week! We’ve been sending [our campers] to ZooCamps for several years and want you to know that you have one of the best staffed, managed, interesting, and fun camps around the state.

-2018 ZooCamp Parent
Welcome to ZooCamp!
A Place to Make Friends, Connections, Observations & Discoveries

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These pages are full of information that will guide you & your family through the entire ZooCamp experience – from registration to a full week of excitement & learning at the zoo!

Please read all materials carefully. If you have any questions that are not answered in these pages, refer to the camp contact information to be connected with the individual that can best provide you with additional information.
Camp Contact Information

ZooCamp Director
401-785-3510 x 394
(Please note: weekend calls will not be received until 7AM Mondays)

Manager of Family Programs
401-785-3510 x 352
(Please note: weekend calls will not be received until 7AM Mondays)

Program Registrar
401-785-3510 x 358
(Available Tuesday – Saturday)
programs@rwpzoo.org

Time sensitive messages & calls during camp hours only
401-785-3510 x 300
Please ask for the ZooCamp Director

“Coming to ZooCamp reminds me of how Disney is. Everyone is always nice and happy. Willing to go above and beyond. My son will remember his time at camp always.”

- 2018 Camp Parent
Registration for 2019 Zoo-Cation Day Camps opens in August & ends one week prior to the desired week of camp (for example, registration for camp on Veterans Day, November 11th is Monday, November 4th). Camp weeks may sell out before deadlines.

To Register
The best way to register for ZooCamp is on-line. Both members & non-members must set-up an account with the new system before registering. Members, be sure to use the same e-mail address you linked to your membership in order to receive your discount! If you need to pay by cash or check, contact programs@rwpzoo.org for a mail-in registration form and medical information form, which are available on the ZooCamp FAQ page at rwpzoo.org.

Discounts for Members
Members receive discounts on all ZooCamps. When you sign-in to your account, this discount will be automatically applied. To become a member, visit our website or call 401-785-3510 x 375 Mon—Fri. You may not receive your new membership number immediately—if it is delayed or you become a member after registering, a credit can be received by providing your new membership number to the program registrar at 401-785-3510 x 358 within two weeks of registration.

Cancellations & Refunds
Complete refunds minus a $15.00 fee will be given if requested at least four weeks prior to each Zoo-cation Day Camp. For example, the final date for refunds for camp on Monday, November 11th is Monday, October 14th. Absolutely no refunds will be made after these dates.

Due to the high demand for camp spaces, we must adhere to the above cancellation policy. If your child is enrolled & you must cancel after the above dates for any reason (including illness) your ZooCamp registration is non-refundable unless a child on the waiting list can fill the space. In the event the cancelled slot is filled, a $15.00 fee will be deducted from your refund.

Waiting Lists
Please contact 401-785-3510 x 358 to be placed on a waiting list. If a space becomes available, the first person on the list will be contacted & given 12 hours to respond. If no response is received within 12 hours, the next person on the list will be contacted.

Common Questions

May I enroll my child in a camp for an older/younger age group?
No. Campers must be the minimum age of each camp at the time of attending camp. Requirements are not negotiable and are strictly enforced. RWP Zoo reserves the right to cancel your registration if your camper does not meet the minimum age requirement. Exceptions are made only for children with special needs and must be approved by the ZooCamp Director.

Can my child & their friend/sibling/relative be in the same group?
In order to ensure that all campers receive age-appropriate opportunities, campers are grouped by age. Special requests to pair relatives or friends in the same group may be made at time of registration, but we follow strict guidelines on age ranges.

May I register other family members & friends?
No. Children must be registered by a parent, legal guardian or grandparent. Please do not register friends, neighbors, etc. as this will make you the primary emergency contact & responsible for all medical & registration information.
Important Information A - Z

Information on both camps — Tadpole Academy & Adventures — are covered in these pages. Please read carefully & share any necessary information with your camper(s). We look forward to a great year of ZooCamp at Roger Williams Park Zoo!

Quick Tips for a Great ZooCamp Experience

★ Clothing should always be appropriate for the weather – all camps spend at least some time outdoors every day.

★ Shoes must always be closed-toe & fit well. We do a lot of walking each day of ZooCamp! No flip-flops, sandals or Crocs, please.

★ Meals – please see “Snacks & Lunches” for details. Snacks are not provided for any of our camps due to the frequency of allergies & special dietary concerns. Lunches are available for pre-order from Boston Culinary Group.

★ Late arrivals or early departures disrupt camp and cause staff to be pulled away from programming. Please make every effort to respect the camp schedule.

Absent Campers
If your child will be absent, please leave a message at 401-785-3510 x 394 with your child’s name & group. There are no refunds or make up days for camp days missed.

Arriving Late & Leaving Early
Late arrivals or early departures disrupt camp & cause staff to be pulled away from programming, and result in missed tours, animal encounters, or other activities for your camper. Please make every effort to respect the camp schedule. If necessary, late arrivals or early departures must be arranged in advance. Fees may apply.
A

Animal Contact

Campers in all ZooCamps will have up-close encounters with education animals. With many, touching is permitted if the situation allows. If at any time ZooCamp staff feels a group is not following ZooCamp Expectations, these animal encounters may be ended & touch opportunities not allowed.

Each camper will also have the opportunity to feed the goats in the Alex and Ani Farmyard. For the safety of all, direct contact with other exhibit animals is not possible. All animal care is done by professionally trained zookeepers.

A

After Care *EXTENDED HOURS 2019!

After Care is not an extension of the camp program, but is a supervised playtime designed for those who need additional time to get to & from work or other commitments.

In all camp seasons, After Care is offered Monday – Friday 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm. Campers may be pre-registered or register Monday – Friday morning. There is a $12 fee per day & a $1/minute additional fee after 5:30 pm.

Note regarding Before Care: ZooCamp does not offer Before Care.

Go Green for ZooCamp!

★ Bring a reusable water bottle.
★ Pack lunches in reusable containers.
★ Instead of purchasing individually wrapped snacks, buy a large bag & put smaller servings in reusable containers.
★ Carpool to ZooCamp with friends and neighbors.

C

Camper Information & Special Needs

All children are welcome in Roger Williams Park Zoo programs. Please provide us with the tools necessary to give your child the best possible experience at ZooCamp by informing us of any & all special considerations prior to your child’s first day of camp. This may include information on allergies, accessibility concerns, behavioral, psychological or emotional conditions or other special needs. Details of any Individualized Education Plans (IEP) or Behavior Plans used with your child at school can often be helpful.

To best enable our staff to provide your child with a valuable experience, the information you provide will be shared with ZooCamp staff & teen volunteers unless you request otherwise. Details will not be shared with other ZooCamp participants without your permission.

While we will make every effort to accommodate all considerations, it is not possible for us to offer 1:1 attention. If your child requires an aide at school or a PASS worker, he/she may not attend ZooCamp without a non-parent aide.
Expectations
The Zoo is committed to ensuring that all children who attend ZooCamp are provided an atmosphere where they can learn together free of harassment or intimidation. Fun & safety are only possible when there are behavior guidelines that all campers agree to follow. You & your child are urged to inform any member of the Zoo staff of any conduct that is offensive or in contradiction to the Zoo’s commitment to a harassment-free environment.

All participants are expected to show respect for all animals, teachers, fellow students, themselves, Zoo staff, Zoo guests & Zoo facilities. Disruptive or dangerous behaviors & physical aggression are not acceptable. The following ZooCamp Expectations are displayed in the ZooCamp classroom:

- Raise your hand to talk
- Listen, and follow directions quickly
- Try new things
- Be kind to others and to animals
- Stay with your group
- Keep hands out of the Zoo fountain
- Use walking feet
- Try your best
- Keep hands, feet & objects to yourself
- Clean up after yourself

Our teachers are professionals & they will use sound, positive management tools within their classes. If any camper does not respond to these measures, the camper will be taken to the ZooCamp Director’s office for a reminder of the ZooCamp Expectations. If the problem behavior persists, we will communicate with the parents or guardians & the participant may be removed from the program with no refund of program fees. Extreme infractions may result in immediate dismissal at the discretion of the ZooCamp Director.

This policy will be reviewed with all campers on their first morning at camp. Please see and review the behavior policy in our appendix(1) with your camper, as your understanding and support of these expectations are integral to your camper’s positive experience.

Grouping
Tadpole Academy and Adventures are separate camps and will not overlap or interact throughout the week. Tadpole Academy have a low maximum enrollment and will not interact with other camp groups at any time throughout the camp week.

The overall maximum is higher for Adventures, so in order to ensure that all campers receive age-appropriate opportunities, Adventures campers are grouped by age. Special requests to pair relatives or friends in the same group may be made at time of registration, but we follow strict guidelines on age ranges and may not be able to honor all of these requests. There will be occasions throughout the day when siblings and friends from different groups will be participating in activities together.

Requests are not guaranteed & no changes to groups will be made less than one week before camp. This includes during morning check-in.

“My son is high functioning autistic similar to Asperger’s and this camp was phenomenal for him! He flourished. He loved his counselors and he was very chatty on rides home about the day. I was extremely happy with the decision to send him”.  
-2018 ZooCamp Parent
**Illnesses**

Roger Williams Park Zoo reserves the right to refuse entrance to ZooCamp if a child is exhibiting symptoms listed below. In the event a camper becomes ill while at ZooCamp, camp staff will notify the registering parent/guardian, followed by those listed as emergency contacts. For the well-being of your camper & the safety of other campers in our program, if your child(ren) shows any of the following symptoms, you will be asked to pick up your child immediately:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more
- Pink eye
- Severe headache
- Ringworm
- Lice
- Severe/persistent coughing
- Sore throat
- Vomiting
- Other contagious illnesses

A doctor’s note must be provided before campers with signs of any contagious illnesses or lice may return to camp. No refunds will be issued for any missed days of camp.

**Lost and Found**

Items are turned in to the central Zoo lost & found at the end of each camp week. To check on lost items after your child’s week at camp, call 401-785-3510 x 300.

**Lunches & Snacks**

Due to the high frequency of allergies & special dietary restrictions, Roger Williams Park Zoo does not provide any snacks during ZooCamp. For all camps, please send at least one snack.

ZooCamp does offer pre-paid lunch options for all full-day campers. For $6.00/day, choose from cheese pizza, macaroni & cheese, a turkey & cheese sandwich, ham & cheese bites, or a veggie quesadilla, all with 100% juice fruit punch & a piece of fruit packaged in recyclable & compostable containers. Advanced ordering is required and no substitutions may be made. Allergen lists for all lunches can be found on the ZooCamp FAQ page at rwpzoo.org.

If not pre-ordering, please be sure to send a nutritious lunch for all full-day campers. No foods will be refrigerated or heated. We suggest that all items be packed in reusable containers to minimize the amount of waste generated at ZooCamp. All campers will participate in the ZooCamp Trash Challenge, with trash being weighed at the end of each day’s lunch. Our goal is to recycle, compost and reuse as much as possible!

Most camps will eat lunch & snack in outdoor areas. If your camper would prefer not to eat on the ground, please feel free to send a small blanket or towel.

In most instances, ZooCamp does not place restrictions on the types of food that can be sent to camp. However, if a high number of participants scheduled to attend a week of camp have food allergies, parents may be asked in advance to refrain from sending the item(s) in question for that week. We appreciate your understanding of these requests.
Medications—Including emergency medications
Any medication that is to be administered to a camper – including in an emergency (i.e. epinephrine, inhalers, etc) - must be given to the zoo Nurse at check-in on Monday in a prescription bottle with the following information clearly displayed: child’s name, name of medication & specific directions for administering medication. A “Medication Permission Slip” must also be completed at that time.

Staff
Staff are screened for excellence in programming for children. ZooCamp staff are required to have previous experience with children & many staff return year after year. All staff working with children undergo a federal background check prior to employment. Counselors are 18+ & are assisted by Junior Counselors age 16+. Staff are supported by volunteer Counselors-in-Training (CITs) ages 13-17. To ensure high quality supervision, the camper-to-staff ratio is 6:1 or better.

Supervision & Safety
At no time is any child left unsupervised. All camp staff are first aid, CPR & AED trained. In addition, the Zoo’s full-time security staff are certified first responders & will respond immediately to any emergency situation. As an added security, a certified nurse is on zoo grounds from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.

T-shirts
Zoo-Cation Day Camps do not include a ZooCamp t-shirt. Campers that have attended camp in the past are welcome and encouraged to wear their ZooCamp shirts, but it is not required.
Theme: Guess Who! A Who’s Who of Your Zoo!

Come explore the animals of Roger Williams Park Zoo and learn what you and your favorite snack have in common with our animals and their favorite foods. Inquiry based activities, crafts, and games along with animal encounters will surely provide a day off from school to satisfy any appetite.

- **Rosh Hashanah**: Monday, September 30  
  Plants (Decomposers)

- **Yom Kippur**: Wednesday, October 9  
  Herbivores

- **Veteran’s Day**: Monday, November 11  
  Carnivores

- **Martin Luther King Day**: Monday, January 20  
  Omnivores
Tadpole Academy
4 - 5 year olds
Tadpole Academy is a great introduction to camp at Roger Williams Park Zoo! In a small group of only 15 campers per session, Tadpole Academy days include stories, crafts, games, encounters with wild animal ambassadors, feeding the goats in the Alex and Ani Farmyard, & Zoo exploration. Please note: Fall Zoo-Cation Day Camps are full days only, and available to both 4 & 5 year olds.

Note: Tadpole Academy campers must be completely toilet trained (requiring no assistance in the bathroom).

Adventures
6 - 10 year olds *extends to age 11 for Fall Zoo-Cation Day Camps
Adventures: Perfect for budding scientists, zoologists, explorers, artists, and kids that just love animals! Days are filled with crafts, hands-on & inquiry driven activities, encounters with wild animal ambassadors, guided Zoo tours, feeding the goats in the Alex and Ani Farmyard, and more.
Tips for a Successful ZooCamp Experience

What To Bring

☐ A reusable water bottle.

☐ Two snacks each day.

☐ A lunch. Lunches will not be refrigerated or heated. We suggest that lunches be packed in reusable containers to minimize waste. Pre-paid lunches are available for $6.00/day including cheese pizza, a turkey sandwich, macaroni & cheese, veggie quesadilla, or ham & cheese roll up, all with a juice box and a piece of fruit packaged in recyclable & compostable containers.

☐ A complete change of clothing.

☐ Raingear every day—just in case!

☐ Medications— see Important Information for details.

What to Wear

☐ Fall Zoo-Cation Day Camps do not include a ZooCamp t-shirt. However, campers with t-shirts from previous years of ZooCamp are welcome and encouraged to wear them!

☐ Active clothing—we recommend against skirts or dresses. Campers will get dirty.

☐ Closed-toe shoes. No flip-flops.

☐ Weather appropriate accessories. Campers will take a zoo tour each day, rain or shine.

Make it a Family Affair

Check your e-mail for daily ZooCamp Newsletters that will include details about the camp day, photos, and at-home activities that can extend the camp experience.

What to Leave at Home

★ Books, toys & stuffed animals. RWP Zoo is not responsible for lost items.

★ Money for food or gifts. Concessions & gift areas will be off limits during camp.

★ Cell phones, iPods and other electronics

Tips for a Successful Check Out

Please DO NOT take your child without first checking out with camp staff. We know our system for pick-up can take a while. Please be patient. Everything we do is for the safety of all our campers.

Photo Identification

In addition to being listed on the approved pick-up list, all approved individuals, including parents, must present a name and photo ID at time of pick-up each day. Please have IDs ready to save time. Campers will not be released to anyone without a valid ID and/or who has not been specified on the pick-up list. Names on the photo ID must match the name on the pick-up list exactly. Real or FEDERAL ID’s will list your full middle name if you have a middle name. Please be mindful of nicknames like Jim, Katie, Sue, etc. The Kid Code created at time of registration does not replace the authorized pick up or ID policy. The Kid Code may only be used in the event of lost or stolen ID. Picture ID is required every day. Thank you for your cooperation - these policies are for the safety of all campers.
**When & Where**

**IMPORTANT!** **ZooCamp drop-off & pick-up locations are not at the Zoo’s main entrance. See the “Finding Your Way” section of this Handbook for gate map & directions.**

8:20 – 8:40 pm  **Drop-off through Gate #5 for all Fall Zoo-Cation Day Camps**

★ Please walk your child to the gate. Staff will be at the gate each morning to greet your child & to record his/her attendance. After your child’s name is recorded, you are free to leave. Parents are encouraged to accompany their child into the Zoo to meet counselors and organize belongings in their respective classrooms, but it is not required.

★ Be prepared to confirm your pick-up list, provide counselors with any medications (including those to be administered in an emergency) & sign-up for After Care if needed.

★ If you have a camper in Tadpole Academy and a camper in Adventures, please be sure to make staff aware of this at drop-off. For your convenience, your older child(ren) will be brought to ZooLab for pick-up with your Tadpole Academy camper.

★ **For your safety**, please do not remain in the Zoo after dropping off your camper. Prior to the Zoo opening, preparations are underway that require the Zoo to be free of visitors. If you would like to visit the Zoo, please enter through the main admission gate at 10:00 AM.

3:30 – 3:45 pm  **Adventures Pick-up at Gate #2**

★ Please DO NOT take your child without first checking out with camp staff. We know our system for pick-up can take a while. Please be patient. Everything we do is for the safety of our campers.

3:30 – 3:45 pm  **Tadpole Academy Pick-up through Gate #5**

★ If you have a camper also in Adventures and have previously notified staff, your Adventures camper may also be picked up through gate #5.

★ Please DO NOT take your child without first checking out with camp staff. We know our system for pick-up can take a while. Please be patient. Everything we do is for the safety of our campers.

3:45 - 5:30 pm  **After Care pick-up through Gate #5**

★ For an additional $12 a day (per child), you may pick up your camper at the education center between 3:45 & 5:30 PM. All campers must be picked up by 5:30 PM. A $1/minute additional fee applies after 5:30 PM. Campers must be sign signed up for After Care before 3:00 PM each day.

**Arriving Late & Leaving Early**

Late arrivals & early departures disrupt camp, cause staff to be pulled away from programming, and result in missed tours, animal encounters, or other activities for your camper. Please make every effort to respect the camp schedule. If necessary, late arrival or early departure must be arranged in advance. Fees may apply.
Can I visit the Zoo after dropping off my camper?

For your safety, please do not remain in the Zoo after dropping off your camper. Prior to the Zoo opening, preparations are underway that require the Zoo to be free of visitors. If you would like to visit the Zoo, please enter through the main admission gate at 10:00 am.

May I enroll my child in a camp for an older/younger age group?

No. Campers must be the minimum age of each camp at the time of attending camp. Requirements are not negotiable and are strictly enforced. RWP Zoo reserves the right to cancel your registration if your camper does not meet the minimum age requirement. Exceptions are made only for children with special needs and must be approved by the ZooCamp Director.

Can my child and their friend/sibling/relative be in the same group?

In order to ensure that all campers receive age-appropriate opportunities, campers are grouped by age. Special requests to pair relatives or friends in the same group may be made at time of registration, but we follow strict guidelines on age ranges and grade levels.

Requests are not guaranteed & no changes to groups will be made less than one week before camp. This includes during morning check-in.

Can I get a refund if I change my mind or need to cancel?

Complete refunds minus a $15.00 processing fee per camper per camp will be given only if requested at least four weeks prior to each Zoo-Cation Day Camp. For example, the final date for refunds for camp on Monday, November 11th is Monday, October 14th. Absolutely no refunds will be made after these dates.

Due to the high demand for camp spaces, we must adhere to the above cancellation policy. If your child is enrolled & you must cancel after the above listed dates for any reason (including illness) your registration fee is non-refundable unless a child on the waiting list can fill the space. In the event the cancelled slot is filled, a $15.00 processing fee will be deducted from your refund.

Can I stay with my child?

All ZooCamps are designed for children who can remain in a group setting without parental involvement. Throughout the day, please do not meet or follow your child’s tour group if out in the Zoo. This is very distracting for our campers & creates safety concerns.
Remaining in the Zoo

For your safety, please do not remain in the Zoo after dropping off your camper. Prior to the Zoo opening, preparations are underway that require the Zoo to be free of visitors. If you would like to visit the Zoo, please enter through the main admission gate at 10:00 AM.

Approved Pick-Up List

You will be asked to confirm your camper’s approved pick-up list at the time of drop-off. Please consider this list carefully. Campers will not be released to ANY individual not included. For the safety of all campers, no exceptions to this policy will be made. For example, if you are a camper’s mother but are not on the list, you will be required to contact someone that is, to pick-up your child. If you need to add someone to your pick-up list, you may do so by providing a signed note at drop-off.

After Care

Please notify the check-in counselor if your child will be staying for After Care. For an additional $12 a day (per child), you may pick up your camper at the education center between 3:45 and 5:30 PM. All campers must be picked up by 5:30 PM. A $1/minute additional fee applies after 5:30 PM.

Medications - Including Emergency Medications

Please bring any medications to be taken during camp hours or to be administered in an emergency, to morning check-in & provide them to your check-in counselor. You will be asked to complete a short informational form.

Important Pick-Up Information

Check-Out

Please DO NOT take your child without first checking out with camp staff. We know our system for pick-up can take a while. Please be patient. Everything we do is for the safety of all our campers.

Photo Identification

In addition to being listed on the approved pick-up list (see above), all approved individuals, including parents, must present a name and photo ID at time of pick-up each day. Please have IDs ready to save time. Campers will not be released to anyone without a valid ID and/or who has not been specified on the pick-up list. Names on the photo ID must match the name on the pick-up list exactly. Please be mindful of nicknames like Jim, Katie, Sue, etc. The Kid Code created at time of registration does not replace the authorized pick up or ID policy. The Kid Code may only be used in the event of lost or stolen ID. Picture ID is required every day. Thank you for your cooperation - these policies are for the safety of all campers.
Finding Your Way

ZooCamp Pick-Up & Drop-off Is NOT at the Zoo’s main entrance. Please read all directions carefully.

Gate #5    8:20 - 8:45 am    Tadpole & Adventures Drop-Off

From the North
I-95 South.
Take exit 16, bearing to the right at the split toward Elmwood Ave.
Take a left at the light (this is Elmwood Ave).
Take a right at the second Park entrance (there will be a traffic light) onto Linden Avenue.
Once you enter the Park, park (please mind no parking zone signs) and walk to Gate 5.

From the South
I-95 North.
Take exit 16, bearing to the right at the split toward Elmwood Ave.
Take a left at the light (this is Elmwood Ave).
Take a right at the second Park entrance (there will be a traffic light) onto Linden Avenue.
Once you enter the Park, park (please mind no parking zone signs) and walk to Gate 5.

Gate #2    3:30 pm    Adventures Regular Pick-Up

From the North
I-95 South.
Take exit 17, Elmwood Ave.
Left at light (onto Elmwood Ave).
Stay in right hand lane.
Bear right into the Jug Handle and go straight through the light into the park onto Linden Avenue.
Follow the signs that say “ZOO”. Once in the Zoo parking lot, proceed to overflow lots. Gate #2 is a metal gate to the right of the main entrance.

From the South
I-95 North.
Take exit 16, bearing to the right at the split toward Elmwood Ave.
Take a left at the light (this is Elmwood Ave).
Take a right at the second Park entrance (there will be a traffic light) onto Linden Avenue.
Follow the signs that say “ZOO”. Once in the Zoo parking lot, proceed to overflow lots. Gate #2 is a metal gate to the right of the main entrance.

Gate #5

From the North
I-95 South.
Take exit 17, Elmwood Ave.
Left at light (onto Elmwood Ave).
Stay in right hand lane.
Bear right into the Jug Handle and go straight through the light into the park onto Linden Avenue.
Once you enter the Park, you will pass a small paved road with a gate at the end. This is Gate 3. Pass the gate and park your car near the Rose Garden (look out for the no parking zones) and walk to Gate 5. Please let the guards know which ZooCamp your child is attending—they will have you sign-in and direct you to the appropriate classroom.

Tadpole Pick-Ups & After Care

From the South
I-95 North.
Take exit 16, bearing to the right at the split toward Elmwood Ave.
Take a left at the light (this is Elmwood Ave).
Take a right at the second Park entrance (there will be a traffic light).
Once you enter the Park, you will pass a small paved road with a gate at the end. This is Gate 3. Pass the gate and park your car near the Rose Garden (look out for the no parking zones) and walk to Gate 5. Please let the guards know which ZooCamp your child is attending—they will have you sign-in and direct you to the appropriate classroom.
Still Have Questions?

ZooCamp Director
401-785-3510 x 394
(Please note: weekend calls will not be received until 7AM Mondays)

Manager of Family Programs
401-785-3510 x 352
(Please note: weekend calls will not be received until 7AM Mondays)

Program Registrar
401-785-3510 x 358
(Available Tuesday – Saturday)
programs@rwpzoo.org

For time sensitive messages & calls – during camp hours only
401-785-3510 x 300
Please ask for the ZooCamp Director

“Thank you so much for this fantastic week for my daughter. She has not had a lot of summer camp experience and everyone made this week so wonderful for her. Keep on doing everything you are doing. It’s perfect! I have recommended it to everyone I know.”

-2018 ZooCamp Parent
Appendix One:
Roger Williams Park Zoo
ZooCamp Behavior Policy

ZooCamp at Roger Williams Park Zoo (RWPZ) is committed to providing a safe environment for campers of all abilities that fosters growth, learning, making friendships, and having fun. This atmosphere is only possible when behavior guidelines are followed by all campers. Guidelines are reviewed with campers at the beginning of each day and are displayed in all classrooms. Parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss these guidelines with their camper prior to the start of camp. At ZooCamp we…

★ Raise our hands
★ Listen with our listening ears
★ Try new things
★ Are kind to others and to animals
★ Stay with our groups at all times
★ Use our walking feet
★ Try our best every day
★ Keep our hands and feet to ourselves
★ Clean up after ourselves
★ Keep our hands out of the fountain

Discipline Policy

To ensure your camper is safe, having fun, and learning, all RWPZ ZooCamp staff are thoroughly trained in advance of and throughout the camp season. Staff are trained to reinforce positive behavior and attitudes, to empower campers to make correct choices, and to problem solve so that all campers have a positive ZooCamp experience.

Two examples of ZooCamp behavioral management strategies include:

★ ZooCamp All Stars: The awarding of stars for making good choices. Stars are posted on wall charts as visual reinforcement of positive behavior.

★ S.T.A.R Spot: This acronym stands for Smile, Take a breath, And Relax. A spot marked by a star is in each classroom and provides campers with a chance to self-regulate while still under the supervision of camp counselors. When ready to rejoin the group, campers that have used the S.T.A.R Spot earn a star.

Please support ZooCamp staff in providing your child with an exceptional experience by pro-actively providing details about behavior management tools or strategies successfully employed at home or at school so that those methods can be reinforced at ZooCamp if needed.

ZooCamp staff will always attempt to redirect negative behavior prior to moving to more progressive modes of handling behavioral issues as outlined below. If negative behavior persists and a campers’ choices disrupt the camp experience for themselves and others in the group, staff will enact the RWPZ ZooCamp Behavior Policy. Staff will use discretion to accommodate for age and cognitive level.

Minor Infraction:

Example: disrespect is shown to fellow campers, staff, guests and/or animals.

1st offense: Verbal reminder of behavior expectations. Camper is given the chance to self-correct and make positive choices. The occurrence will be communicated to parents verbally at pick-up or in a note home.
2nd offense: Verbal reminder of behavior expectations & removal from current activity for 15 minutes to speak with ZooCamp Director in the camp office. ZooCamp Director calls parent/guardian once camper has returned to the group to discuss the incident.

ZooCamp Counselor follows-up with parent/guardian at pick-up to solicit suggestions for strategies that have been successful at home and/or at school.

3rd offense: Camper is removed from activity and brought to speak with the ZooCamp Director in the camp office. The ZooCamp Director decides whether the camper will be sent home early, miss an activity, or miss an animal encounter. In all cases, the parent/guardian is called while the camper is in the office and engaged in a three-way discussion. While missing an activity or waiting for pick-up, the ZooCamp Director and camper work together to identify strategies for making better choices and create a behavior plan. This plan is signed by the camper, ZooCamp Director, and parent/guardian. Camper is encouraged to return to camp the following day.

4th offense: If any significant behavior concern persists, camper is not following behavior plan, or a new behavior of concern is shown, camper is removed from the program and brought to the ZooCamp Director for dismissal. Camper is not permitted to return to ZooCamp for the remainder of the session. No refunds are given for removal from camp due to behavior.

All behaviors and conversations will be documented to allow for ZooCamp staff and parents/guardians to best identify strategies that will support campers in making positive choices. Campers will reset each week of ZooCamp unless dismissed for a serious infraction (see below).

**Serious Infractions**

Example: endangerment or intent to endanger own or other’s well-being (human or animal).

1st offense: Camper is removed from activity and brought to ZooCamp Director for early dismissal. Parent/Guardian is called to pick up camper. While waiting for pick-up, the ZooCamp Director and camper will work together to identify strategies for making better choices and create a behavior plan. This plan is signed by the camper, ZooCamp Director, and parent/guardian. Camper is encouraged to return to camp the following day.

2nd offense: If camper repeats the dangerous behavior, is not following behavior plan, or a new negative behavior is shown, camper is removed from program, brought to ZooCamp Director, and parent/guardian is called for pick-up. Camper will be permanently dismissed from the program without refund.

Threats and harassment of any nature, possession of drugs, alcohol, and/or weapons, stealing, or serious injury to campers, staff member, or animals will result in an immediate dismissal without refund. If deemed necessary, proper authorities will be notified.

**Considerations**

RWPZ reserves the right to review each expulsion case by case to assess whether the camper will be allowed back, on probation, for subsequent weeks/camps. Any further registration of a camper dismissed from ZooCamp must be discussed with the ZooCamp Director prior to registration. RWPZ reserves the right to cancel registrations of a dismissed camper made without prior authorization by the ZooCamp Director.

ZooCamp in an inclusive experience that welcomes and supports children of all abilities. While the safety and quality experience of all campers is paramount, RWPZ ZooCamp Staff will consider individual camper needs in the enforcement of this behavior policy.

**If at any point you have questions or concerns about this policy or would like to discuss strategies for supporting your camper at ZooCamp, please contact the ZooCamp Director at (401) 785-3510 x394.**