

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK

ZOO

"Thank you all for  
the amazing work  
you do! Zoo camp  
is always one of  
the highlights of  
our summer!"

-2022 Parent



**ZOOCAMP** 2023



# 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 and on to a full week of excitement & learning at the zoo!

Please read all of these 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 Monday morning)

## Manager of Family Programs

401-785-3510 x 352

(Please note: weekend calls will not be received until Monday morning)

## Program Registrar

401-785-3510 x 358

(Available Tuesday – Saturday)

[programs@rwpzoo.org](mailto:programs@rwpzoo.org)

“Our kids thoroughly enjoyed their time at Zoo camp. So much so, they couldn’t wait to go back and were very sad it ended. “

- 2022 Camp Parent



## Time sensitive messages & calls during camp hours *only*

401-785-3510 x 300

Please ask for the ZooCamp Director





# Registration

**Registration opens at [rwpzoo.org](http://rwpzoo.org) for Winter and Spring camps at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 10th. Registration for Summer Camp opens early Wednesday, March 1st at 9 AM. All registrations close one week prior to the desired week of camp. Camp weeks may sell out before registration deadlines.**

## To Register

The best way to register for ZooCamp is on-line. Both members & non-members must set-up an account with the 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 check, contact [programs@rwpzoo.org](mailto:programs@rwpzoo.org) for a mail-in registration form and medical information form, which can be found on our FAQ page at [rwpzoo.org/zoocamp](http://rwpzoo.org/zoocamp)

## 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 \$30.00 fee will be given up to February 1, 2023 for Winter; April 1, 2023 for Spring; & June 1, 2023 for Summer ZooCamps. **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 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 \$30.00 fee will be deducted from your refund. Please see page 14 for Covid-19 related absences.

## 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. These requirements are not negotiable and are strictly enforced. RWPZoo 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.

Requests are not guaranteed & no changes to groups will be made less than two weeks prior to the camp start date.

## Can I register my camper for more than one week?

Campers may be registered for a maximum of one session of each camp theme. If a duplicate registration is made, RWP Zoo reserves the right to cancel your registration.

## 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. Children must be registered by a legal guardian.



# Important Information A-Z

Information on all 2023 camps — Tadpole, Adventures, & Conservation Heroes — is 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 will spend their entire camp experience outside.
- ★ 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 our onsite vendor, Service System Associates.
- ★ 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. Refer to our Covid-19 policies on page 8 for related absences.

## 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.



# Important Information A - Z



## A nimal Contact

Campers in all ZooCamps will have up-close encounters with education animals. These encounters are subject to change based on the ongoing pandemic. If at any time ZooCamp staff feels a group is not following ZooCamp Expectations, these animal encounters may be ended.

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. Also due to safety, limited space, the availability of zookeepers & the sensitive nature of many of our endangered species, we are not

able to offer behind-the-scenes tours for camps.

## A fter Care

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. After Care cannot be added same day as campers must be preregistered for aftercare. Registration for After Care must be pre-registered for and can be added 2 weeks prior to camp. The cost is \$30 per day (Winter Camp only), \$100 for the full week & a \$1/minute additional fee after 5:30 pm. It is recommended to send a snack with your camper if they are attending After Care.

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

After Care cannot be added throughout the camp week in order to keep stable groups consistent (please see page 12 for definition of stable groups). Additional fees may be applied for failure to pick-up campers at the appropriate pick-up time.

## C amper 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 as well as any 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 and successful 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.

## 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.

# Important Information A - Z

## Covid-19 and camp.

Please refer to our Covid-19 camp policies on page 11-13 for more information.

**"Always a favorite...so educational and immersive!!!"**  
-2022 ZooCamp parent

## CampBrain!

CampBrain is our brand new registration system to collect our campers medical information and parent authorizations! When you purchase your week of camp, you will be directed to our CampBrain software from your confirmation e-mail! You will need to make an account, select your campers week, and fill in their medical information and parent authorizations! Forms can be edited up until June 1st! Failure to complete by June 1st could result in cancellation of your registration.

## Expectations

The Zoo is committed to ensuring that all children who attend ZooCamp are provided an atmosphere that fosters learning free of harassment or intimidation. Fun and safety are only possible when there are behavior guidelines that all campers agree to follow. You and 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 and they will use sound, positive management tools within their classes. If any camper does not respond to these measures, the camper will be reminded of the ZooCamp Expectations by the ZooCamp Director. If the problem behavior persists, we will communicate with the parents or guardians and 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 read 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.

# Important Information A - Z



## Groupping

Campers will be grouped by age to ensure age appropriate instruction. To ensure that camp operates to the highest safety standards, campers will be assigned stable groups. (See page 12 for more information on stable groups.) Special requests to pair relatives or friends in the same group may be made at time of registration and will be accommodated as best as possible but are not guaranteed. Camp groups will be created two weeks before camp starts and will not be changed or altered once camp is in session.

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

## Illnesses

Roger Williams Park Zoo reserves the right to refuse entrance to ZooCamp if a child is exhibiting symptoms including but not limited to those 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 everyone, 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
- Muscle or body aches
- Chills

- Diarrhea
- Severe/persistent coughing
- Sore throat
- Nausea or Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Lost of taste or smell

If Campers are symptom free (with out the assistance of fever reducing medications) for 24 hours, the campers can return to camp. The presence of specific or multiple symptoms may indicated a suspected case of Covid-19.

If campers are considered a suspected case of Covid-19, the campers will be asked to follow the RI Department of Health protocols. Your camper will need to quarantine and receive a Covid-19 test. Campers who test negative will be allowed back at camp after being symptom free for 24 hours (without the assistance of fever reducing medications).

If a camper is experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 prior to attending camp, or feeling ill at all, we ask that the camper is not brought to camp that day. Campers can return to camp, if not experiencing symptoms of Covid-19, after being symptom free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications.

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. Please see page 11-13 for ways to help mitigate the risk of Covid-19 while at camp. (These policies may be amended by RWPZoo in response to State and Federal guidelines, policies, suggestions, and at our discretion).

There is always a risk for injuries, illness, property damage, and more when attending in-person camps. With you and your campers help, we can reduce the risk of personal injury, illness, property damage, and more.

(Updated 11/16/2022)

# Important Information A - Z

## 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. For campers enrolled in After Care, please send one additional snack.

ZooCamp does offer pre-paid lunch options for all full-day campers. For \$10.00/day, choose from a personal pizza, macaroni & cheese, or a hotdog, all with a bag of potato chips, fruit, and a drink. Ordered lunches will be prepared and individually packed by our very own Chef Anthony and his team. Advanced ordering is required either during registration or during your morning camp check-in and no substitutions may be made. Allergen lists for all lunches can be found on the ZooCamp FAQ page at [rwpzoo.org](http://rwpzoo.org).

If not pre-ordering, please be sure to send a nutritious lunch for your 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!

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.

During lunch, ZooCamp will follow best practices to help mitigate the spread of covid-19 and other infectious disease.

## 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.



# Important Information A - Z



## S tray Materials

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.

## S unscreen

Campers should come equipped with sunscreen that can be reapplied throughout the day without grown-up assistance. Please refrain from aerosol spray sunscreens. Sun protection gear does not replace sunscreen, hats and other gear are recommended.

## S upervision & Safety

At no time is any child left unsupervised. All camp staff are first aid, CPR & AED trained. Additionally, the Zoo's full-time security staff are certified in first aid & will respond immediately to any emergency situation. As an added layer of protection, a zoo Nurse is on zoo grounds from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

## T -shirts

Campers are required to wear ZooCamp t-shirts every day. This is a safety precaution & allows us to recognize campers easily among other visitors. Each child receives one t-shirt with each week's registration with extra t-shirts available for purchase. T-shirts will be distributed the first day of camp.

If a camper does not come to camp with his/her t-shirt Tuesday – Friday, the shirt must be brought to camp or a new one purchased for \$12. This is to ensure your camper's safety and exceptions will not be made.

Available sizes: Youth XS, S, M, L, Adult S, M, L & XL

## W aterbottles

Campers should bring a reusable water bottle to camp. It is recommended to bring at least 2. To ensure safety of all campers, water bottles must have a secondary mouthpiece that campers use to drink from. Water bottles without a secondary mouth piece cannot be refilled at camp throughout the day.



# Covid-19 Policies

**At Roger Williams Park ZooCamp, it is a top priority to mitigate the risk of spreading Covid-19. Please read on to find specific strategies put in place to help limit the spread of Covid-19. There is always a risk when participating in our in-person programs, but with your help, we can lower that risk for the safety of our campers.**

## How can you help?

### Pre-screening

Each morning we will ask that you pre-screen yourself and your camper. Your answers will be saved as part of our camp records for the Department of Health.

**\*Current pre-screening questions are:**

- ★ Are you currently experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 such as cough, shortness of breath, diarrhea, fever, or other symptoms not explained by allergies?
- ★ Have you been in contact with someone who is positive for Covid-19 in the last 14 days?
- ★ Have you traveled to a Covid-19 Restricted Travel State as designated by the Department of Health in the last 14 days?
- ★ Have you been directed to quarantine by the State of Rhode Island?

This year we will be facilitating drop-off and pick-up at staggered times. Camp families will be given their times prior to their camp week.

### Drop-off/Pick-up

We ask that families abide by our staggered check-in times to facilitate quick, easy, smooth, safe, and socially distant drop-off and pick-up.

**Group A: 8:00-8:15 AM, Pick-up 3:15-3:30PM**

**Group B: 8:10-8:25 AM, Pick-up 3:30-3:45 PM**

When dropping off and picking up, only campers will be permitted into the camp spaces to keep stable groups as consistent as possible. Counselors and Counselors-in-Training will be there to facilitate helping the camper with a smooth transition into the camp setting.

All persons over the age of two are required to wear a mask and keep 3 ft. of social distance during pick up and drop off. Camp families who do not follow these protocols may be asked to exit camp.

# Masks and More!

## What we are doing at ZooCamp!

### What are Stable Groups?

A stable group is a set group of campers that is consistent with the same counselor through their entire camp week. Campers in stable groups will stay a minimum of 3ft apart from one another when outdoors. Each stable group will stay at least 7 ft apart from other stable groups. These stable groups will be created up to two weeks ahead of their week of camp.

### Increased cleaning throughout the day:

At ZooCamp, safety is our top priority. We are increasing our cleaning throughout the camp day. Areas and surfaces will be wiped down after each activity. Shared spaces and shared materials will be kept at a minimum.

### Shared Materials:

Shared materials will be kept at a minimum and only shared inside the stable groups when possible and with appropriate sanitization protocols. Stable groups will not share materials with other stable groups without sanitizing between uses.

### Will campers still go on Zoo Tour?

Yes! Campers will still go on a Zoo tour!

### Will my camper still play games at camp?

Yes! We love games at camp. All of our games are modified to play physically distant, or play in their stable groups.

### My camper always talked about touching the armadillo, will there still be touch opportunities?

At this time, we are still learning how COVID-19 affects the animals at the zoo. We will still meet animals at camp, but touch opportunities will be dependent on the species.

### What resources are being used to guide Camp?

Roger Williams Park ZooCamp employs industry best practices developed by camp professionals, utilizing information, guidance, and resources from the RI Department of Health, CDC, and the RI Department of Education.

## What type of masks should campers pack?

We may be asked to mask depending on proximity to animals. Campers are to bring masks that follow the Center of Disease Control Recommendations. Cloth masks must be at minimum two layers of tightly woven fabric. Masks such as surgical masks can be worn to camp and are proven to be more effective than cloth masks. Gaiters, bandanas, and scarves will not be accepted as an appropriate mask.



# Covid-19 Policies Cont.

## What if there is a Positive Case at Camp?

Roger Williams Park Zoo is implementing these strategies in an effort to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 and reduce the risk of contracting Covid-19 at camp. Roger Williams Park Zoo will be following the Rhode Island Department of Health recommended protocols for suspected and confirmed cases that may arise through the camp season.

If a camper is a suspected case of Covid-19, the camper will be asked to quarantine at home and to schedule a test through the Department of Health or their primary care physician. The camper will be permitted to return to camp after receiving a negative test result and if they have been symptom free for 48hrs without the use of fever reducing medication. As always, it is recommended to confer with your camper's primary care physician.

If a camper, counselor, or counselor-in-training is a confirmed positive case of Covid-19, the case will be reported to the Department of Health and our Covid-19 person in charge, Ron Patalano the Director of Operations at Roger Williams Park Zoo. All close contacts to the positive case will be asked to show proof of vaccination status and will be asked to masks for ten days.

The presence of a positive Covid-19 case will be communicated to camp families in the affected week. All affected spaces and materials will be cleaned and sanitized thoroughly by the operations staff at Roger Williams Park Zoo.

By following RI DOH/CDC guidance, and sanitizing hands between every activity and meal times, we can reduce the risk of Covid-19 and will help mitigate the spread in our camp community.

Refunds are not guaranteed and may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

(Updated 11/16/2022)

For specific Covid-19 Policies questions, please feel free to e-mail The ZooCamp Director at [Bcaporelli@rwpzoo.org](mailto:Bcaporelli@rwpzoo.org) or the Manager of Family Programs at [DJHill@rwpzoo.org](mailto:DJHill@rwpzoo.org). If you would like specific questions answered by the Director of Education or Director of Operations, please send your e-mail to [Bcaporelli@rwpzoo.org](mailto:Bcaporelli@rwpzoo.org) with "attn: Director of..." and we will be sure to direct your question to the appropriate person.

## Family Vacation!

Please keep in mind that as Rhode Island Department of Health may have travel restrictions set in place. If you or your family is planning on taking a vacation before camp, your camper may need to follow RI DOH guidelines. Please refer to RI DOH Travel information for Rhode Island and for your travel location.

## Gathering

Please plan your camp week accordingly with your family vacation.

ZooCamp encourages you to follow the RI Department of Health policies for group gatherings and plan your week accordingly.

**Our policies are guided by the State and Federal guidelines to help reduce the risk and mitigate the spread of Covid-19. State and Federal mandates are subject to change as more is learned about the novel coronavirus. Any updates or changes to these ZooCamp policies will be effectively communicated to all ZooCamp Families.**



# Tadpole Academy

## 4 & 5 \*Full Day Sessions\*

Tadpole Academy is a great introduction to camp at Roger Williams Park Zoo! Tadpole Academy includes stories, crafts, games, encounters with animal ambassadors & Zoo exploration in a safe, small group of 12 campers per week. Tadpole Academy is only offered for Full Day Camp Sessions from 8:00 AM-3:30 PM.\* Campers may be registered for a maximum of one week per theme. Duplicate registrations will be cancelled.

Each Tadpole Academy camper will receive a ZooCamp t-shirt and a chance to feed the goats in the Alex and Ani Farmyard.

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

**Winter February 20 – 24**

**\$395/members; \$420/non-members**

*Theme: Story Book Adventure:*

Jan Brett



**Spring April 10 – 14**

**\$395members; \$420/non-members**

*Theme: A Quest for Rest;*

*Zzzzz's at the Zoo*

## Summer Tadpole Academy

**\$395/members; \$420/non-members**

*Odd Weeks Theme: Creature Communication*

*Even Weeks Theme: Creature Features*

Week 1: June 19-23

Week 2: June 26-30

Week 3: July 3-7

Week 4: July 10-14

Week 5: July 17-21

Week 6: July 24-28

Week 7: July 31-August 4

Week 8: August 7-11

Week 9: August 14-18

Week 10: August 21-25





# Tadpole Academy

## \*New Full Day Sessions Only

### To Bring

- ☐ At least one reusable water bottle with a secondary mouth piece.
- ☐ At least one snack.
- ☐ A lunch every day. 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 \$10.00/day. See A-Z section or website for details.
- ☐ A complete change of clothing.
- ☐ Rain or snow gear every day – just in case!
- ☐ Medications— see “Important Information” for details on medications.
- ☐ Sunscreen— please avoid aerosols



### To Leave at Home

- ★ Books, toys & stuffed animals. RWPZoo is not responsible for lost items.
- ★ Money for food or gifts. Concessions & gift areas will be off limits during camp.

### To Wear

- ☐ ZooCamp t-shirts will be distributed the first day of camp. These shirts must be worn daily to allow Zoo staff to easily recognize campers.
- ☐ Shorts or pants. No skirts or dresses. Campers *will* get dirty.
- ☐ Closed-toe shoes. No flip-flops or sandals.
- ☐ Weather appropriate gear. Campers will spend time outdoors every day.
- ☐ There will be storage for outer layers for campers



### Make it a Family Affair

Check your e-mail for daily Tadpole Academy ZooCamp Newsletters, including photos, activity information, ideas for books to read at home & activities to do together.

## Be sure to label your child's belongings

## Beat the Heat

For our Summer ZooCamp participants, we have many ways of staying cool on scorching hot days:

- ★ Outdoor activities and meals take place in shaded areas.
- ★ Staff carry misting bottles & frequently mist campers when outdoors.
- ★ Stops are made at misting areas set up throughout the Zoo when on tour.
- ★ Camper water bottles are refilled frequently – please don't forget to send a reusable one with your camper!
- ★ Games involving water, such as Drip-Drip-DROP, are often played after lunch.
- ★ Sunscreen will be reapplied throughout the day.

“Day to day communication regarding how he did was excellent and very appreciated. We will definitely choose camp next year due to the attention given to students with disabilities. ”

- 2022 ZooCamp Parent



# Tadpole Academy

## \*New Full Day Sessions

### When & Where (see "Finding Your Way" for directions)

8:00 — 8:15 am Full Day Tadpole Academy at Main Admissions Plaza

- ★ 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.

3:15– 3:30 pm Pick-up for Tadpole Academy at ZooLab through Gate #3.

- ★ Please notify camp at least two weeks prior to your camp experience if you have campers in our adventures program to help facilitate easy pick-up for you and your campers.

After 3:30 pm

Aftercare is not available for Tadpole Academy Campers

Fees will apply for campers not picked up by 3:30.



### Check-in & Check-out Procedures.

To help mitigate the spread of Covid-19, check-in and check out will occur at staggered times. One week before your camp starts, you will receive what group your camper is in and more information pertaining to a digital screening tool. Campers will be dropped off and picked up in their designated time window. Masks are required for anyone over the age of 2 (unvaccinated) picking up or dropping off and all persons at pick-up must maintain 3 ft. physical distancing.

## Important Pick-Up Information

Campers will not be released to any individual not on the pre-approved pick-up list created at time of registration. When providing this list, please ensure ALL pertinent individuals are included, including yourself, parents, grandparents, etc. For the safety of all campers, *no exceptions to this policy will be made*. Individuals may be added to your camper's list by providing the ZooCamp Director with a signed note at drop-off.



All approved individuals, including parents, must present a name and photo ID at time of pick-up **each day**. Please have ID's 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 IDs will list a full 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.



# Winter, Spring & Summer Adventures

"This is our fourth year at zoo camp. We love it and will continue sending our children back! -2022 ZooCamper

## 6 - 10 years

Perfect for budding scientists, zoologists, explorers, artists, and kids that just love animals! Days (8:00 am — 3:30 pm) are filled with crafts, hands-on & inquiry driven activities, encounters with wild animal ambassadors & guided Zoo tours.

Each Adventures camper will receive a ZooCamp t-shirt, a chance to feed the goats in the Alex and Ani Farmyard, and a personal craft box! (Please note: For Winter Adventures only campers that attend all 5 days will receive a t-shirt.)

### Winter 2022 February 20 — 24

**\$335/members; \$360/non-members**

**Daily option for Winter ZooCamp:**

**Per Day: \$70 members/\$85 non-members**

#### *Winter Around the World*

|                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Monday, 2/20    | Tropical Rainforest |
| Tuesday, 2/21   | Desert              |
| Wednesday, 2/22 | Temperate Forest    |
| Thursday, 2/23  | Savanna             |
| Friday, 2/24    | Arctic              |

Have you ever wondered what winter is like in different places on Earth? During this camp, we'll explore winter in biomes all around the world. From the frozen arctic to the heat of the desert, no matter what the climate-campers will have fun!

### Spring 2022 April 10-14

**\$335/members; \$360/non-members**

#### *Most Extreme Animals*

We've circled the globe and we've found them-the most extreme, amazing, and unbelievable animals. In this wild week, campers will discover that being the fastest, the biggest, and the weirdest are really adaptations to help ensure their survival.



### Summer Adventures

**\$335/members; \$360/non-members**

#### **Even Weeks: (2,4,6,8,10) Mythbusting: Fact? Or Fiction?**

Is it true that an elephant can't jump? Can camels store water in their humps? Or are bats blind? Explore animal myths and misconceptions and prove them fact or fiction. One fact for sure: campers will have an incredible time!

#### **Odd Weeks: (1,3,5,7,9) That Animal's Got Talent**

Reality TV stars can't compete with the superstars of the animal world. Dancing cranes, crooning whales, fashionable decorator crabs and beavers that build – campers will be dazzled by the amazing talents of animals. Vote for your favorite!

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| Week 1:  | June 19-23       |
| Week 2:  | June 26-30       |
| Week 3:  | July 3-7         |
| Week 4:  | July 10-14       |
| Week 5:  | July 17-21       |
| Week 6:  | July 24-28       |
| Week 7:  | July 31-August 4 |
| Week 8:  | August 7-11      |
| Week 9:  | August 14-18     |
| Week 10: | August 21-25     |

**Please note:** Campers may be registered for one week of each theme for a maximum of one odd week and one even week. Registrations beyond this maximum will be canceled.





# Summer Adventures

## To Bring

Each camper will be provided with a cubby for their belongings. Cubbies are of a limited size – 1' high, 1' wide, 1.5' deep. Please try to send only what will fit in your camper's cubby, but be sure he/she is prepared by including:

- ☐ At least two reusable water bottles with a secondary mouth piece.
- ☐ At least one snack.
- ☐ A lunch every day. 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 \$10.00/day. See A-Z section or website for details.
- ☐ A complete change of clothing.
- ☐ Rain or snow gear every day – just in case!
- ☐ Medications— see “Important Information” for details on medications.
- ☐ Sunscreen— please avoid aerosols

## To Leave at Home

- ★ Books, toys & stuffed animals. RWPZoo is not responsible for lost items.
- ★ Money for food or gifts. Concessions & gift areas will be off limits during camp.
- ★ Cell phones, iPods or other electronics.

## To Wear

- ☐ ZooCamp t-shirts will be distributed the first day of camp. These shirts must be worn daily to allow Zoo staff to easily recognize campers.
- ☐ Shorts or pants. No skirts or dresses. Campers *will* get dirty.
- ☐ Closed-toe shoes. No flip-flops or sandals.
- ☐ Weather appropriate gear. Campers will spend time outdoors every day.
- ☐ Pack a cloth mask with at least two layers



## Make it a Family Affair

Check your e-mail for daily Adventures ZooCamp Newsletters, including photos, activity information, and ideas for ways to continue the fun of ZooCamp at home.



**Be sure to label your child's belongings**

# Beat the Heat

For our Summer ZooCamp participants, we have many ways of staying cool on scorching hot days:

- ★ Outdoor activities and meals take place in shaded areas.
- ★ Staff carry misting bottles & frequently mist campers

when outdoors.

- ★ Stops are made at misting areas set up throughout the Zoo when on tour.
- ★ Camper water bottles are refilled frequently – please don't forget to send a reusable one with your camper!
- ★ Games involving water, such as Drip-Drip-DROP, are often played after lunch.
- ★ Sunscreen will be reapplied throughout the day.
- ★ Waterproof shoes



# Summer Adventures

## When & Where (see “Finding Your Way” for directions)

### 8:00 – 8:10 am Drop-off through the Admissions Plaza

- ★ Prior to arriving, parents should fill out the pre-screening form. Campers who do not have a completed prescreening form will not be allowed to enter camp until a parent submits the form.
- ★ 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 will not be able to walk their camper down to the camp space to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19.
- ★ Be prepared to confirm your pick-up list, confirm lunch orders and to provide counselors with any medications (including those to be administered in an emergency).
- ★ **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 9:00 am.

### 3:15 – 3:45 pm Pick-up at Admissions Plaza

- ★ 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.

### After 4:15 pm After Care pick-up through Gate #3

- ★ For an additional \$100 per week (per child), you may pick up your camper at Gate 3 between 4:15 & 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 signed up for After Care at time of registration or at least two weeks before your scheduled camp week.

## Check-in & Check-out Procedures.

To help mitigate the spread of Covid-19, check-in and check out will occur at staggered times. One week before your camp starts, you will receive what group your camper is in and more information pertaining to a digital screening tool. Campers will be dropped off and picked up in their designated time window. Masks are required for anyone over the age of 2 (unvaccinated) picking up or dropping off and all persons at pick-up must maintain 3 ft. physical distancing.

## Important Pick-Up Information

Campers will not be released to any individual not on the pre-approved pick-up list created at time of registration. When providing this list, please ensure ALL pertinent individuals are included, including yourself, parents, grandparents, etc. For the safety of all campers, *no exceptions to this policy will be made*. Individuals may be added to your camper's list by providing the ZooCamp Director with a signed note at drop-off.



All approved individuals, including parents, must present a name and photo ID at time of pick-up **each day**. Please have ID's 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 IDs will list a full 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.



# Conservation Heroes

## Ages 11-14

It's a wild world, and one that needs leaders passionate about animals, the environment & conservation. In this one-week camp at the Zoo, campers will be empowered to become leaders in conservation through teambuilding & leadership activities, engagement in inquiry based learning, games, encounters with wild animal ambassadors, visits to animal exhibits, and more. Camp runs 8:00 am – 3:30 pm. *(Important note: this is not a travel camp).*

Each Conservation Heroes camper will receive a ZooCamp t-shirt, craft box, and a chance to feed the goats in the Alex and Ani Farmyard.

**\$335/members; \$360/non-members**

### **ODD WEEKS: (1,3,5,7,9) Investigating Ecosystems**

Get tangled up in the complex web of ecosystem interactions! In this session campers will explore the delicate balance of these living systems and the challenges they face. We'll encounter resilient species, study changing populations, and discover that it's all connected.

### **EVEN WEEKS: (2,4,6,8,10) Inspired By Nature**

What do planes, solar panels, and medicine have in common? They were inspired by living things in nature! This camp will discover the ways in which nature has sparked innovation and shaped inventions. Taking inspiration from extraordinary animals at the Zoo, we'll explore problem solving through biomimicry design.

*\*Please note: Due to USDA and AZA regulations, this program will not include behind-the-scene components. This is not a travel camp.*

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| Week 1:  | June 19-23       |
| Week 2:  | June 26-30       |
| Week 3:  | July 3-7         |
| Week 4:  | July 10-14       |
| Week 5:  | July 17-21       |
| Week 6:  | July 24-28       |
| Week 7:  | July 31-August 4 |
| Week 8:  | August 7-11      |
| Week 9:  | August 14-18     |
| Week 10: | August 21-25     |



# Conservation Heroes



## To Bring

- ☐ At least one reusable water bottle with a secondary mouth piece.
- ☐ At least one snack.
- ☐ A lunch every day. 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 \$10.00/day. See A-Z section or website for details.
- ☐ A complete change of clothing.
- ☐ Rain or snow gear every day – just in case!
- ☐ Medications— see “Important Information” for details on medications.
- ☐ Sunscreen– please avoid aerosols



## To Leave at Home

- ★ Books, toys & stuffed animals. RWPZoo is not responsible for lost items.
- ★ Money for food or gifts. Concessions & gift areas will be off limits during camp.

## To Wear

- ☐ ZooCamp t-shirts will be distributed the first day of camp. These shirts must be worn daily to allow Zoo staff to easily recognize campers.
- ☐ Shorts or pants. No skirts or dresses. Campers *will* get dirty.
- ☐ Closed-toe shoes. No flip-flops or sandals.
- ☐ Weather appropriate gear. Campers will spend time outdoors every day.
- ☐ There will be storage for outer layers for campers



## Make it a Family Affair

Check your e-mail for daily Tadpole Academy ZooCamp Newsletters, including photos, activity information, ideas for books to read at home & activities to do together.

**Be sure to label your child's belongings**

## Beat the Heat

For our Summer ZooCamp participants, we have many ways of staying cool on scorching hot days:

- ★ Outdoor activities and meals take place in shaded areas.
- ★ Staff carry misting bottles & frequently mist campers when outdoors.
- ★ Stops are made at misting areas set up throughout the Zoo when on tour.
- ★ Camper water bottles are refilled frequently – please don't forget to send a reusable one with your camper!
- ★ Games involving water, such as Drip-Drip-DROP, are often played after lunch.
- ★ Sunscreen will be reapplied throughout the day.

“Day to day communication regarding how he did was excellent and very appreciated. We will definitely choose camp next year due to the attention given to students with disabilities. ”

- 2022 ZooCamp Parent



# Conservation Heroes

## When & Where (see “Finding Your Way” for directions)

### 8:00 – 8:10 am Drop-off through the Admissions Plaza

- ★ Prior to arriving, parents should fill out the pre-screening form. Campers who do not have a completed prescreening form will not be allowed to enter camp until a parent submits the form.
- ★ 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 will not be able to walk their camper down to the camp space to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19.
- ★ Be prepared to confirm your pick-up list, confirm lunch orders and to provide counselors with any medications (including those to be administered in an emergency).
- ★ **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 9:00 am.

### 3:30 – 3:45 pm Pick-up at Admissions Plaza

- ★ 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.

### After 4:15 pm After Care pick-up through Gate #3

- ★ For an additional \$100 per week (per child), you may pick up your camper at Gate 3 between 4:15 & 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 signed up for After Care at time of registration or at least two weeks before your scheduled camp week.

## Check-in & Check-out Procedures.

To help mitigate the spread of Covid-19, check-in and check out will occur at staggered times. One week before your camp starts, you will receive what group your camper is in and more information pertaining to a digital screening tool. Campers will be dropped off and picked up in their designated time window. Masks are required for anyone over the age of 2 (unvaccinated) picking up or dropping off and all persons at pick-up must maintain 3 ft. physical distancing.

## Important Pick-Up Information

Campers will not be released to any individual not on the pre-approved pick-up list created at time of registration. When providing this list, please ensure ALL pertinent individuals are included, including yourself, parents, grandparents, etc. For the safety of all campers, *no exceptions to this policy will be made*. Individuals may be added to your camper's list by providing the ZooCamp Director with a signed note at drop-off.



All approved individuals, including parents, must present a name and photo ID at time of pick-up **each day**. Please have ID's 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 IDs will list a full 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.

# Frequently Asked Questions



## 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 9:00 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 and no changes to groups will be made less than two weeks 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 \$30.00 processing fee will be given up to February 1, 2023 for Winter ZooCamp, April 1, 2023 for Spring ZooCamp and June 1, 2023 for Summer ZooCamp. **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 and you must cancel after the above listed dates for any reason, 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 \$30.00 processing fee will be deducted from your refund. Please see page 12-14 for Covid-19 related policies.

## 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.



# Finding Your Way

## Important Drop-Off Information

### 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 on the list, 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 \$100 a week (per child), you may pick up your camper through Gate 3 between 4:15 and 5:30 PM. After Care can only be registered for a full week and cannot be added less than two weeks prior to your camp session. All campers must be picked up by 5:30 PM. A \$1/minute additional fee applies after 5:30 PM.



"I was so impressed with the staff every morning and every afternoon - Everything was so well organized and the kids had a blast every day. We will definitely be back!"  
-2022 ZooCamp Parent

### Medications - Including Emergency Medications

Please bring any medications to be taken during camp hours or to be administered in an emergency on Monday morning & 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, Real IDs will list a full 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.

# Finding Your Way

**ZooCamp Pick-Up & Drop-off is at the Zoo's main entrance.  
Please read all directions carefully.**

## **Admissions Plaza: 7:55-8:20 am**

### From the North

I -95 South.

Take exit 34, 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.

Campers can line up right in front of the Main Entrance.

## **All Camper Drop-Off**

### From the South

I-95 North.

Take exit 33, 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.

Campers can line up right in front of the Main Entrance.

## **Admissions Plaza: 3:15 –3:45 pm**

### From the North

I -95 South.

Take exit 34, 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.

## **Adventures & Heroes Regular Pick-Up**

### From the South

I-95 North.

Take exit 33, 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 #3: 3:30-5:30 pm**

### From the North

I -95 South.

Take exit 34, 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 3. 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 & After Care Pick-Up**

### From the South

I-95 North.

Take exit 33, 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 3. 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](mailto:programs@rwpzoo.org)

For time sensitive messages & calls – during camp hours *only*

401-785-3510 x 300

Please ask for the ZooCamp Director



“It was our first time sending our son to camp and it was an outstanding experience. He loved it and I felt very comfortable with him being in the hands of your staff and facility. The daily news letters were something to look forward to!”

-2022 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.

1<sup>st</sup> 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> offense: Verbal reminder of behavior expectations & removal from current activity for 15 minutes to speak with ZooCamp Director. 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> offense: Camper is removed from activity and brought to speak with the ZooCamp Director. 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 with the camper 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.

4<sup>th</sup> 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).

1<sup>st</sup> 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 is 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.**



ROGER WILLIAMS PARK

ZOO

555.555.5555

TARBOX  
TOYOTA

ZOO SUPPORTER

FACES OF THE RAINFOREST

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK

ZOO