

ROGER WILLIAMS PARK

ZOO

“My boys LOVED camp and were so sad when it ended. They’re already counting down the days until next year!” - 2024 ZooCamp Parent



ZOOCAMP

**Winter and Spring
2025**



Welcome to ZooCamp!

A Place to Make Friends, Connections, Observations & Discoveries

Table of Contents

Camp Contact Information	3
Camp Registration Information	4
Important Info for ALL Camps	5-10
Tadpole Academy	11-13
Summer Adventures	14-16
Frequently Asked Questions	17
2025 Policy UPDATES	18
Finding Drop-Off and Pick-Up	19-20
Counselor In Training Info	22
ZooCamp Behavior Policy	24-25

These pages are full of information that will guide you and 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.



“Very impressed by our first experience with Zoo Camp, thank you!” - 2024 ZooCamp Parent



Camp Contact Information

ZooCamp Administrator

401-785-3510 x 352

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

Manager of Family Programs

401-785-3510 x 394

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

Program Registrar,

401-785-3510 x 358

programs@rwpzoo.org

Time sensitive messages and calls

during camp hours *only*

401-785-3510 x 300

Please ask for the ZooCamp Director





Registration

Registration opens at rwpzoo.org for Winter and Spring camps at 9:00 am on Wednesday January 8th. Registration for Summer Camp opens 9:00 AM Wednesday, February 5th. 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 purchase 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 for a mail-in registration form and medical information form, which can be found on our FAQ page. Once purchased, you will be directed to CampBrain to complete registration with additional information. Your camp registration will be considered incomplete until finalized on CampBrain.

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 358 Mon—Fri. If 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, 2025 for Winter; April 1, 2025 for Spring; and June 1, 2025 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.

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 2025 winter and spring camps —Tadpole and Adventures, — is covered in these pages. Please read carefully and 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

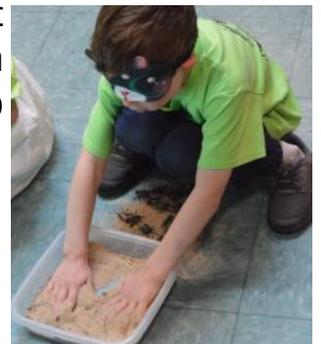
- ★ Clothing should always be appropriate for the weather – all camps will spend their entire camp experience outside.
- ★ Shoes must always be closed-toe & fit well. We do a lot of walking each day of ZooCamp! No flip-flops, sandals or Crocs, please.
- ★ Meals – please see “Snacks & Lunches” for details. 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 missed camp days.

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**

AfterCare is not an extension of the camp program, but is a supervised playtime designed for parents who need additional time to get to and from work or other commitments.

In all camp seasons, AfterCare is offered Monday – Friday 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm. Campers must be preregistered for aftercare at least 2 weeks prior to their week of camp. The cost is \$100 for the full week, \$30 per day for winter camp. AfterCare is not available to Tadpole Academy campers.

“We had such a wonderful experience. Our son was so thrilled every day with all activities and activities. All staff was fully engaged with the children and very professional.” -2024 ZooCamp Parent

It is recommended to send an additional snack with your camper if they are attending AfterCare. A additional fee of \$1/minute will be charged for campers not picked up by 5:30pm.

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

CampBrain!

CampBrain is our brand new Camp Management 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 2 weeks prior to your first day of camp, if the form is not completed 2 weeks prior to your first day of camp, it may result in cancellation of your registration. Parents are responsible for maintaining their Approved Pick-Up List and can access that all season long to make updates as needed. See page 18 for more information.

“It was a great program. Counselors were enthusiastic!” -
2024 ZooCamp Parent

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 expectations 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.

Important Information

A - Z



Grouping

Campers will be grouped by age to ensure age appropriate instruction. 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.

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

Campers may return to camp after they have been symptom free (without fever reducing medications).

If a camper is feeling ill at all, we ask that the camper not be brought to camp that day. Campers can generally return to camp, after being symptom free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications.

If a camper tests positive for Covid-19, they should stay home for at least 5 full days from the day they test if asymptomatic, or from the onset on symptoms if present. RIDOH also recommends masking through day 10.

If a camper has a known exposure to Covid-19, the RIDOH recommends monitoring for symptoms and masking for the next 10 days as well as testing 5 days after exposure.

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.

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 12/9/2024)

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 AfterCare, please send one additional snack.

ZooCamp does offer pre-paid lunch options for all full-day campers. For \$15.00/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 by our very own Chef Nicole and her 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.

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.



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, and 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 and 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+. Paid 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 counselors are first aid, CPR, and AED trained. Additionally, the Zoo's full-time security staff are certified in first aid and 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 full week's registration with extra t-shirts available for purchase. T-shirts will be distributed the first day of camp. T-shirts are only included with full week camp registrations.

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. As we say at camp, "HYDRATION IS HAPPINESS"!





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 8:15 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 17 –21

\$396/members; \$421/non-members

Theme: Story Book Adventure:

Eric Carle

Spring April 14 — 18

\$396members; \$421/non-members

Theme: Project Cover Up-Animal Coverings





Tadpole Academy

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 \$15.00/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 and activities to do together.



Be sure to label your child’s belongings

Beat the Cold

For our Winter and Spring ZooCamp participants, we have many ways of staying warm on cold days:

- ★ Snack and meals will take place in our education center.
- ★ Staff carry emergency warming hands for friends that might need a little bit more to stay warm.
- ★ Stops are made at indoor locations throughout the zoo.
- ★ Camper water bottles are refilled frequently – please don’t forget to send a reusable one with your camper!
- ★ Games involving moving to keep the campers warm during the colder air.
- ★ Sunscreen will be reapplied throughout the day.

“We had such a terrific week. This is a highlight of the summer for us. The kids were engaged and came home so happy. They love the crafts and all of the activities. I feel like they are very well taken care of. Thank you for all your hard work!” -2024 ZooCamp Parent



Tadpole Academy Full Day Sessions

When & Where

(see “Finding Your Way” for directions)

8:15 — 8:30 am Drop-Off for Tadpole Academy is at Main Entrance 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.

Aftercare is not available for Tadpole Academy Campers

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



Important Pick-Up Information



Campers will not be released to any individual not on the pre-approved pick-up list maintained by the parents on the CampBrain portal. When creating 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*. Parents may add to their camper’s list throughout the season via CampBrain.

All approved individuals, including parents, must present a photo ID at time of pick-up **every day**. Please have ID’s ready to save time. Campers will not be released to anyone without a valid ID or who has not been specified on the pick-up list .

Names on the photo ID must match the names on the pick-up list EXACTLY.

This includes middle names and suffixes. If it is on the ID, it needs to be on the list. Please be mindful of nicknames like Jim, Katie, Sue, etc, as they are often not how names appear on IDs. Confirm this with your pick-ups before it becomes an issue.

- ★ ZooCamp staff are **not** authorized to rely on “remembering” who you are.
- ★ ZooCamp staff are **not** empowered to edit your Approved Pick-Up List for you.
- ★ Parents are responsible for the accuracy of their Approved Pick-Up List as well as updating it.
- ★ See page 21 for more information.

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 Adventures



"My daughter had an amazing week. Communication was excellent and pick up was extremely organized and efficient." -2024 ZooCamp Parent

6 - 10 years

Perfect for budding scientists, zoologists, explorers, artists, and kids that just love animals! Days (8:15 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 and a chance to feed the goats in the Alex and Ani Farmyard! (Please note: For Winter Adventures only campers that attend all 5 days will receive a t-shirt.)

Winter 2024 February 17 — 21

\$361/members; \$386/non-members

Jungle Journey

Monday, 2/17	Where are the Rainforests?
Tuesday, 2/18	Forest Floor
Wednesday, 2/19	Understory
Thursday, 2/20	Canopy Layer
Friday, 2/21	Emergent Layer & Jungle



Escape the cold of a New England winter and join us on a trip to the rainforest! We'll explore the four layers of tropical rainforests, the animals that live there and how they survive. Friday afternoon will feature a Jungle Jam in a rainforest built by ZooCampers out of recycled materials throughout the week.

Spring 2024 April 14 — 18

\$361/members; \$386/non-members

All In the Family

Warm weather is on the way and with it often comes brand new little ones! Growing up wild can be tough. Some start out on their own, some with a little help from their parents, some with an extended family, and some with a whole community to look out for them. We'll learn how baby animals survive and thrive in families of all kinds!





Winter & Spring 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
- 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 \$15.00/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.

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.



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 Cold

For our Winter and Spring ZooCamp participants, we have many ways of staying warm on cold days:

- ★ Snack and meals will take place in our education center.
- ★ Staff carry emergency warming hands for friends that might need a little bit more to stay warm.

- ★ Stops are made at indoor locations throughout the zoo.
- ★ Camper water bottles are refilled frequently – please don't forget to send a reusable one with your camper!
- ★ Games involving moving to keep the campers warm during the colder air.
- ★ Sunscreen will be reapplied throughout the day.





Winter & Spring Adventures

When & Where

(see “Finding Your Way” for directions)

8:15– 8:30 am Drop-off is at Gate 8 near the Admissions Plaza

- ★ Please stay with your child throughout the check-in process. Staff will be at the gate each morning to greet your camper and to record his/her attendance. After your child’s name is recorded, you are free to leave.
- ★ 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 pick-up can take a while. Please be patient. Everything we do is for the safety of our campers. Ensuring your Approved Pick Up Lists are accurate and having your ID at the ready will expedite this process.

After 4:15 pm AfterCare pick-up is at 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. Preregistration is required.

Important Pick-Up Information NEW UPDATES



Campers will not be released to any individual not on the pre-approved pick-up list maintained by the parents on the CampBrain portal. When creating 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*. Parents may add to their camper’s list throughout the season via CampBrain.

All approved individuals, including parents, must present a photo ID at time of pick-up **every day**. Please have ID’s ready to save time. Campers will not be released to anyone without a valid ID or who has not been specified on the pick-up list.

Names on the photo ID must match the names on the pick-up list EXACTLY.

This includes middle names and suffixes. If it is on the ID, it needs to be on the list. Please be mindful of nicknames like Jim, Katie, Sue, etc, as they are often not how names appear on IDs. Confirm this with your pick-ups before it becomes an issue.

- ★ ZooCamp staff are **not** authorized to rely on “remembering” who you are.
- ★ ZooCamp staff are **not** empowered to edit your Approved Pick-Up List for you.
- ★ Parents are responsible for the accuracy of their Approved Pick-Up List as well as updating it.
- ★ See page 21 for more information.

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 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 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, 2025 for Winter ZooCamp and April 1, 2025 for Spring 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.

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.



2025 Pick-Up Policies

Don't be surprised by these Pick Up Policies!

Your Approved Pick Up-List

Parents provided an Approved Pick-Up List when registering their camper(s) on CampBrain. Only the individuals on this list with a matching valid photo ID in hand can pick-up the corresponding camper(s), even the parents.

Names must match IDs exactly.

Nicknames are not acceptable.

Example. If an ID says "Katherine", do **NOT** list "Kate" on the Approved Pick-Up List. Same with Matthew and Matt, etc. They must match exactly.

If an ID has a middle name, it must be included on the Approved Pick-Up List.

Many IDs/REAL IDs include middle names, check with anyone on your list before it becomes a problem.

If an ID has a suffix on it, it must be included on the Approved Pick-Up List.

Suffixes like Jr, Sr, III, etc. must be listed on the Approved Pick-Up List if they are on the ID.

Do not forget to add yourselves to the Approved Pick-Up List.

While your first and last name may be listed as a camp parent, you must also add your name as it appears on your ID to your Approved Pick-Up List.

A valid photo ID must be presented every day, every time, no exceptions.

-ZooCamp staff are **not** authorized to rely on "remembering" who you are.

-ZooCamp staff are **not** empowered to edit your Approved Pick-Up List for you.

-Parents are responsible for the accuracy of their Approved Pick-Up List and maintaining that.

-Please be considerate to the ZooCamp staff as they are working to provide a positive and safe environment for your camper.

Updating your Approved Pick Up-List

1. Login to the [ZooCamp CampBrain Portal](#).
2. Under "Winter 2025" or "Spring 2025" click on  .
3. On the right, under "Forms", click on "Update Household Information".
4. Scroll down to the bottom of the form to view and update your list as needed.
5. Click  to save your changes.

Finding Your Way

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

Admissions Plaza: 8:15 - 8:30am

All Camper Drop-Off

Admissions Plaza: 3:30 –3:45pm

Adventures Pick-Up

See the map on the next page for specific Drop-Off and Pick-Up locations near the Main Entrance.

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".

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".

Gate #3: 3:15-3:30pm

Tadpole Academy and AfterCare Pick-Up

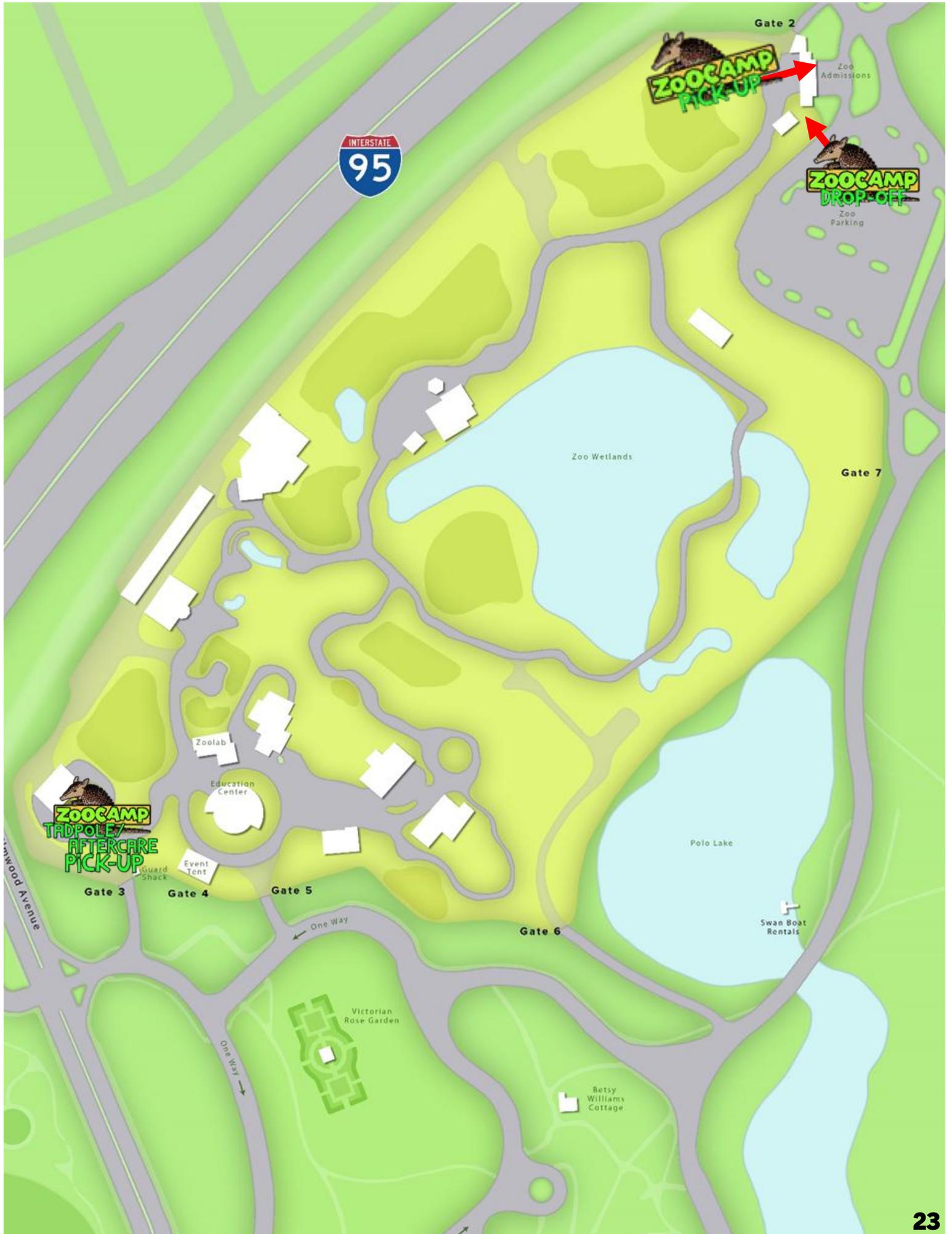
Parents will need to park on the street near Gate 3 before walking over to Gate 3. Do not attempt to drive through this Gate, Security will ask you to turn around. Otherwise, they will direct you to ZooLab for Tadpole Pick-Up or to the Education Center for AfterCare Pick-Up. See map on next page.

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 check your ID direct you to the appropriate location.

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 check your ID and direct you to the appropriate location



Still Have Questions?

ZooCamp Director

401-785-3510 x 352

(Please note: weekend calls will not be received until 7AM Mondays)

Manager of Family Programs

401-785-3510 x 394

(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



“I was SO impressed with zoo camp. Everything was well marked, communicated and the newsletter?!?!? Insane. I was not expecting that at all and it was such a nice touch every day.”- 2024 ZooCamp Parent



Counselor-In-Training

Counselor-In-Training (CITs) are teens in grades 7th-12th looking to volunteer at the zoo with our camp program!

CITs are responsible for:

- ★ Engaging campers ages 4 -10 in play
- ★ Forming relationships with campers
- ★ Assisting counselors in camp day activities
- ★ Leading games and crafts
- ★ Maintaining a safe and FUN environment

CITs gain:

- ★ Community Service hours!
- ★ Zoo admission at any time
- ★ Invaluable skills
- ★ New friends
- ★ Science knowledge

Applications are due on January 12th 2025 and can be found on the RWPZ Career Page!

**For more questions contact Andrea Crafton,
Manager of Volunteer Resources at volunteer@rwpzoo.org**

Looking Forward to 2025

What programs will be running in summer 2025?

We will be having 10 weeks of Summer Tadpole Academy, Summer Adventures, and Conservation Heroes!

Will masks be required for 2025?

The zoo will be following the most recent guidelines set by the RI Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control. ZooCamp will be monitoring all state mandates and make the best and safest decision along with the zoo's Senior Management team.

Will there be scholarships for campers who have autism in 2025?

We love the inclusivity that ZooCamp is able to offer and are currently working on securing funding to bring back our scholarships for our campers who have autism. Keep an eye out for applications opening in January 2025!

When will we have the themes and information for summer camp?

All themes and dates summer camp will be available during our 2025 summer season is updated on our website! <https://www.rwpzoo.org/programs/zoocamp/>

Will there be a cost increase this summer?

Full week Winter, Spring, and Summer Adventures will be \$360 for members and \$385 for non-members. Conservation Heroes will be \$360 for members and \$385 for non-Members. Tadpole Academy will be \$395 for members and \$420 for non-members.



Appendix One:

Roger Williams Park Zoo

ZooCamp Safety Policy

ZooCamp at Roger Williams Park Zoo (RWPZ) is committed to providing a safe environment for all campers that fosters growth, learning, making friendships, and having fun. This atmosphere is only possible when everyone that participates in ZooCamp, including but not limited to campers, guardians of campers, and staff are committed to safety. Expectations for campers are reviewed at the beginning of each day and are displayed in all classrooms. We ask parents/guardians to discuss these expectations with their camper prior to the start of camp. At ZooCamp we...

- ★ Respecting others when they are speaking
- ★ 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
- ★ Following directions from Camp Staff

In Case of Unsafe Behavior

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 safe 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. Campers are encouraged to give each other stars as well as counselors.
- ★ Quiet space: campers have access to a quiet area in the education center that has supplemental tools to help campers who may need a break, needs help refocusing, or to have additional time on a project or craft.

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 or compromises camp safety, staff will enact the RWPZ ZooCamp Safety Policy. Staff will use discretion to accommodate for age and cognitive level.

Minor Safety Infraction:

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

1st offense: Verbal reminder of camp expectations. Campers are given the chance to self-correct and make positive choices. The occurrence will be communicated to parents verbally at pick-up or in a phone call.

2nd offense: Verbal reminder of camp expectations & removal from current activity for 15 minutes to speak with ZooCamp Administrator in the camp office. ZooCamp Administrator 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 Administrator in the camp office. The ZooCamp Administrator 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 Administrator and camper work together to identify strategies for making better choices and create a safety plan. This plan is signed by the camper, ZooCamp Administrator, and parent/guardian. Campers are encouraged to return to camp the following day.

4th offense: If any significant safety concern persists, camper is not following safety plan, or a new behavior of concern is shown, camper is removed from the program and brought to the ZooCamp Administrator 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 Safety 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 Administrator for early dismissal. Parent/Guardian is called to pick up camper. While waiting for pick-up, the ZooCamp Administrator and camper will work together to identify strategies for making better choices and create a safety plan. This plan is signed by the camper, ZooCamp Administrator, and parent/guardian. Camper is encouraged to return to camp the following day.

2nd offense: If camper repeats the dangerous behavior, is not following safety plan, or a new unsafe behavior is shown, camper is removed from program, brought to ZooCamp Administrator, 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 Administrator prior to registration. RWPZ reserves the right to cancel registrations of a dismissed camper made without prior authorization by the ZooCamp Administrator.

ZooCamp is an 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 safety 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 x352.



ROGER WILLIAMS PARK

ZOO