
ZOOCAMP
2027
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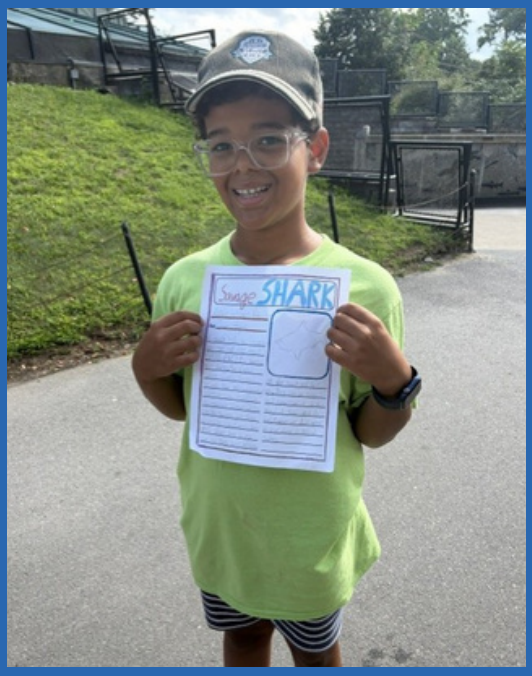






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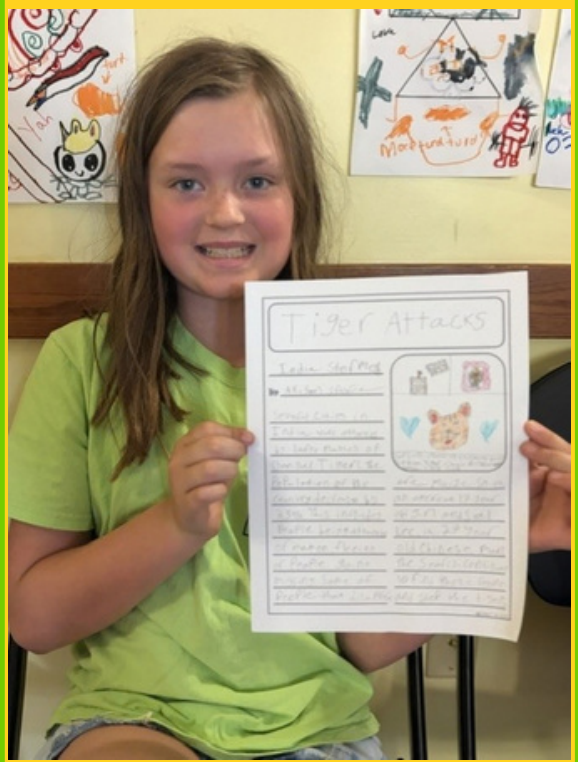
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“It has become like a second school or community to him. I think he looks forward to it more than his actual school.”

2026 ZooCamp Parent



Camp Contact Information

ZooCamp Administrator

Olivia Webb

owebb@rwpzoo.org

401-785-3510 ext. 352

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

Manager of Family Programs

Beth Caporelli

bcaporelli@rwpzoo.org

401-785-3510 ext. 394

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

(During Camp Hours Only)

If you are unable to contact the numbers above, please call 401-785-3510 ext.300 and ask for the ZooCamp Administrator.



Inclusion & Accessiblity

“They were so experienced in early childhood, and the inclusion specialist was so helpful straight from the beginning...The communication and attention to details and how the staff truly got to know each child and CARE, made this camp week amazing”

2026 ZooCamp Parent

Accessibility Statement

At Roger William Park ZooCamp, we are committed to fostering an inclusive, welcoming and accessible summer camp community. We recognize that every camper has unique abilities, needs and experiences, and we believe that every child's differences should be celebrated and thoughtfully accommodated.

Roger Williams Park Zoo and ZooCamp strive to create an environment where all campers can participate, feel supported, and enjoy their camp experience. The safety and well-being of every camper, along with the resources and support available to our program, play an important role in determining how we can best accommodate and support individual needs throughout the summer.

The Accessibility and Inclusion FAQs on the next page are intended to provide clarity, set expectations, and promote a better understanding of the resources, accommodations, and support we can provide at RWPZ ZooCamp.







Belonging Statement

At RWPZ ZooCamp, everyone is welcome and everyone belongs

At Roger Williams Park ZooCamp, we believe every child deserves to feel welcome, valued, and included. At our science-based camp, we recognize the value of biodiversity and understand that this applies not only to our ecosystems, but to our communities as well. To create a thriving ecosystem and camp environment, we strive to foster a welcoming, diverse, empathetic, and respectful camp community. At RWPZ ZooCamp, we celebrate the unique backgrounds, interests, identities, abilities, cultures, and experiences that make each camper who they are.

Inclusion FAQ's

How do I know if my camper is ready for ZooCamp?

To help your camper fully enjoy camp, they should be able to:

- **Follow Basic Instructions**-Camp involves group activities & transitions. Being able to follow on or more two step directions is essential.
- **Stay with their Group-** Camp groups will be traveling around the zoo to see different animals and their exhibits. For safety, campers should feel comfortable staying with their peers and counselors throughout the day.
- **Communicate their Needs**- All forms of communication are valid! Whether your camper communicates through gestures, assistive devices, speech or another form of communication, we want to ensure they can communicate their needs to staff.
- **Use the Bathroom Independently**- Campers are required to be able to use the bathroom without adult assistance.

What accommodations are available at camp?

ZooCamp offers a variety of supports to help create an inclusive, structured and accepting environment for all campers. Some examples include: pre-camp phone calls, social stories, sensory tools, quiet spaces, etc. ZooCamp also has an on-site Inclusion Specialist who serves as a liaison between families and camp staff, to ensure that appropriate accommodations for campers are provided. **We encourage families to share camper IEP, 504 and other educational support plans to best accommodate your camper.** Please visit our website below to learn more about additional accommodations that are provided at camp.

My camper requires 1:1 support, what steps do I need to take?

While RWPZ is not able to provide a 1:1 aide to your camper, we encourage your camper to be accompanied by a non-parent support person/aide if they have one. All support staff must complete an aide agreement and submit a Rhode Island BCI that is not older than three months from the submission date. ZooCamp requires the BCI check be submitted three weeks prior to the designated date of camp. Please contact the ZooCamp Administrator at owebb@rwpzoo.org, to request a 1:1 to aide agreement.

For more information on inclusion and accessibility at ZooCamp, please visit our website (https://www.rwpzoo.org/programs/zoocamp/)

ZooCamp Safety Policy

At ZooCamp, we want everyone to feel safe, welcome, included, and ready to have fun! This atmosphere is only possible when campers, families, and staff are committed to the safety and wellbeing of the ZooCamp community.

ZooCamp Expectations:

Camp expectations are reviewed at the beginning of each camp day and displayed in all classrooms. We ask that parents/guardians discuss these expectations with their camper prior to the first day of camp.

- Respect people, animals and nature
- Use safe bodies & words
- Listen, follow directions, & ask questions
- Clean up after ourselves
- Stay with our group
- Take turns & share

Proactive Behavior Management:

At ZooCamp all staff receive proactive, safe behavior management training, to encourage campers to make safe and positive choices. We utilize various strategies and support tools to address camper needs before unsafe behavior issues arise. Examples of proactive strategies and supports include:

- Positive Reinforcement Charts
- Quiet Spaces
- Fidgets
- Wiggle Seats
- Noise Canceling Headphones
- Social stories

To help us give your child an exceptional experience, we encourage you to provide details about behavior management tools and strategies that have benefitted your child. This includes IEP's, 504 plans, and other accommodations/supports that help your camper. Please visit the "Inclusion & Accessibility" section on our website for more information and FAQ's.

Unsafe Behaviors & Safety Concerns:

The safety and wellbeing of our campers, staff, and animals are essential to creating a positive ZooCamp experience. While we recognize that campers are still learning and developing, certain behaviors create safety concerns and require immediate attention and intervention, such as:

- Physically harming or attempting to harm another camper, staff member, or animal.
- Leaving the assigned group or designated area without permission or supervision.
- Using threatening, harassing, or hurtful language towards others.
- Bullying, intimidating, or threatening others.
- Intentionally and repeatedly refusing to follow staff directions, particularly when those directions are related to safety.

ZooCamp Safety Response Protocol:

Our goal is to support every camper in having a safe, positive, and successful ZooCamp experience. When unsafe behaviors occur, ZooCamp staff will work with campers and families to address the behavior, identify potential challenges, and develop strategies for improvement. The following steps outline our typical response to repeated unsafe behaviors:

1st Incident: Refection & Support

The camper will meet one-on-one with a member of ZooCamp Administration to review camp expectations and reflect on the incident. Together they will identify strategies and practice coping, communication, and problem-solving skills to support safer choices. ZooCamp Administration will communicate the incident to parent/guardians and work collaboratively to identify strategies and supports that will help the camper be successful at camp.

2nd Incident: Additional Intervention

The camper will be temporarily removed from the group to discuss unsafe behavior with the ZooCamp Administrator. They will reflect on the incident, review expectations, and identify additional strategies for safe participation. The ZooCamp Administrator will contact the parents/guardians, and the camper will be sent home with a safety report that must be signed and returned the following day. Another attempt will be made to implement strategies to support the camper's safe participation in camp.

3rd Incident: Early Dismissal and Review of Continued Participation

The camper will be brought to the ZooCamp Administrator's office, and parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to arrange early dismissal. ZooCamp Administration will review the circumstances of the incidents and determine whether the camper can safely return to ZooCamp for the remainder of the week. No refunds will be provided for dismissal or removal from camp due to behavioral or safety concerns.

Serious Safety Violations:

Certain behaviors are considered serious safety violations and may result in immediate dismissal from ZooCamp, regardless of whether previous incidents have occurred. These include, but are not limited to:

- Threats, harassment, or intentional acts of intimidation towards campers or staff.
- Possession of drugs, alcohol or weapons.
- Stealing or intentional damage to property.
- Behavior resulting in serious injury to a camper, staff member or animal.

ZooCamp Administration will determine appropriate response based on the nature and severity of the incident. When necessary, appropriate authorities will be notified. No refunds will be provided for dismissal due to serious safety violations.

Considerations:

We recognize that every camper has unique abilities, needs, and experiences. We believe that every child’s differences should be celebrated and thoughtfully accommodated. The safety and well-being of every camper, along with the resources and support available to our program, play an important role in determining how we can best accommodate and support individual campers. ZooCamp staff will consider individual camper needs in the enforcement of this safety policy.

While we strive to provide an inclusive environment, all campers are expected to follow established safety expectations. Individual accommodation does not eliminate the need to maintain a safe environment for everyone.

Registration Information

“Making new friends and meeting new people are a joy not every camp can give, and that is why I love ZooCamp and always will.”

2026 Adventures Camper

ZooCamp Programs

ZooCamp offers full day camp programs for campers ages 4-14 and a Counselor In Training (CIT) program for current 8th-12th graders. Campers must be at least the minimum age requirement, and no older than the maximum age requirement, by their first day of camp (ex. if your camper is 5 at time of registration, but will be 6 for their first day of camp, they should be registered for Adventures.) Please visit **rwpzoo.org** for more information on our camp programs, registrations, and CIT applications!





Tadpole Academy
(4-5)
Winter, Spring, Summer & ZooCation Day Camps

Adventures
(6-10)
Winter, Spring, Summer & ZooCation Day Camps





Conservation Heroes
(11-14)
Summer Camp Only

Counselors in Training
(Current 8th-12th Graders)
Apply Here for Summer 2027

Registration

How to Register:

The best way to register for ZooCamp is on our website. Both members & non-members must set-up an account/sign-in **(here)** before registering. Members, please use the same email address that is linked to your membership to receive your discount! If you need to pay by check, please contact programs@rwpzoo.org for mail-in registration and medical forms.

Following your purchase, you will receive a confirmation email with a link to our camper information portal, Camp Brain. **Camp Brain will open the day after registration, and families will have 48 hours to complete camper medical forms and parent/guardian authorizations. Failure to complete Camp Brain within 48 hours may result in cancellation of your registration.** (**Please Note:** Camp Brain cannot be used to purchase ZooCamp registrations and should only be completed after purchasing ZooCamp on our website.)

Cancellations & Refunds:

Complete refunds minus a $30.00 fee will be given until February 1st for Winter Camp, April 1st for Spring Camp, and June 1st for Summer Camp. A complete refund minus a $15.00 fee will be given up to two weeks prior to your registered camp date for ZooCation Day Camps. Absolutely no refunds will be provided after these dates. If your child is enrolled and must cancel after these dates, your ZooCamp registration is non-refundable unless a child on the waitlist can fill the space. In the event the cancelled slot is filled, a $30.00 fee (full week camps)/$15.00 fee (day camps) will be deducted from your refund.

Member & Sibling Discounts:

Members receive discounts on all ZooCamps! When you sign-in to your account, this discount will automatically apply in your cart. To become a member, visit our website or call 401-785-3510 x 375 Mon-Fri. If you become a member after registering, a credit can be received by providing your new membership number to programs@rwpzoo.org within two weeks of registration.

Families may also receive a $35 sibling discount for each additional camper, after their first registration. Please complete the form in your registration confirmation email to request sibling discounts.

Waitlist:

Please complete the form on our website to be added to the waitlist. If a space becomes available, the first person on the list will be contacted. If no response is received within 24 hours, the next person on the list will be contacted.

Registration Add-Ons

Add-On	Price	When to Add
After Care *M-F (3:30-5:30)* ***Not available for Tadpole Academy*** After Care is not an extension of the camp day, but a supervised playtime designed for families who need additional time to pick-up their camper. There is a $1/minute late fee for campers picked up after 5:30.	***$100***	**Registration or up to TWO weeks prior to your first day of camp.*
ZooCamp Lunch Campers may choose from a personal pizza, mac & cheese, or hot dog, served with chips, fruit, and a drink. No substitutions may be made after morning check-in. Allergen lists for all lunches can be requested.	***$15/day;*** ***$75/ week***	**Registration or check-in during your week of camp.*
T-Shirts Each camper will receive one ZooCamp t-shirt as part of their registration! As a safety pre-caution, campers are required to wear their ZooCamp t-shirts everyday. You may purchase additional shirts during your week of camp! **Available sizes:** Youth XS, S, M,L Adult S, M, L, XL, XXL	***$13***	*Check-in/Check-out*

Registration FAQ's

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

No. Campers must be the at least the minimum and no older than the maximum age of each camp at the time of attending. 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/maximum age requirement. Exceptions are only made for children who may require accommodations and must be approved by the ZooCamp Administrator.

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

To ensure that all campers receive developmentally appropriate opportunities, campers are grouped by age. Special request to pair relatives or friends in the same group may be made at the 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 theme (2 weeks total). If a duplicate registration is made, RWPZoo reserves the right to cancel your registration.

May I register other family members & friends?

No. Children must be registered by a parent or legal guardian. Please do not register friends, neighbors, etc. as this will make you the primary emergency contact & responsible for all medical & registration information.



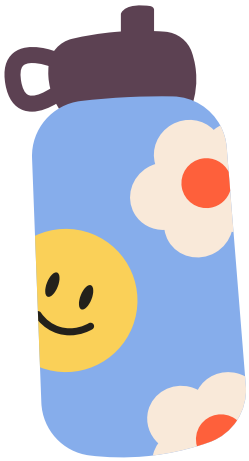


ZooCamp 101

“My child has gained so much confidence from ZooCamp. The staff helps her feel super comfortable at camp and she loves learning about animals.”

2026 ZooCamp Parent

What to Bring to ZooCamp



Resusable Water Bottle



Snacks & Lunch

*Please send an extra snack for After Care campers!



Extra Clothes



Weather Gear

*We will spend time outside on rainy & cold days!



Sunscreen, Bug Spray, & Hats

What to Wear at ZooCamp

- **ZooCamp T-Shirt**: Must be worn daily so campers can be easily recognized by zoo staff!
- **Comfortable Bottoms**: Shorts, pants, or skorts
- **Closed Toed Shoes:** Please do not wear flip-flops, sandals or crocs.
- **Rain Gear and/or Cold Weather Gear** (during colder months)

What 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, IPads, Smart Watches, & other electronics

Medications & Illnesses

Medications & Emergency Medications

Any medication that is to be administered to a camper-including in an emergency (i.e. epi-pens, inhalers, etc.) must be given to the Zoo Nurse at check-in on Monday. The medication must be 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 during Monday 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 primary parents/guardians, 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

Campers may return to camp after they have been symptom free (without fever reducing medications) for 24 hours. 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.

A doctor's mote 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.







Supervision & Precautions

Staff & Supervision



Staff are screened for excellence in youth programming. 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+ and are assisted by Junior counselors age 16+. Paid staff are supported by volunteer Counselors-In-Training (CITS) ages 13-17.

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. As an added layer of protection, a Zoo Nurse is on grounds from 9:00 am-4:00 pm.



Temperature Considerations

ZooCamp Staff consistently monitor outdoor temperatures and follow approved childcare temperature guidelines.

- During spring/summer, outdoor activities take place in shaded areas and are moved indoors on extreme heat days.
- Campers have access to misting stations, water games, and the Big Backyard water play area.
- Camper water bottles are refilled frequently.
- Sunscreen is reapplied throughout the day, and hats are worn when outside.
- During fall/winter, campers wear appropriate outdoor gear and have access to indoor classrooms

Animal Contact

Campers in all ZooCamps will have up-close encounters with our education ambassador animals. If at any time ZooCamp staff feels a group is not following ZooCamp Expectations, these animal encounters may be ended.



Campers will also meet our 9-banded armadillos in the Connection Corner. For the safety of all, direct contact with other exhibit animals is not possible. All animal care is done by professionally trained zookeepers. 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.

ZooCamp FAQ's

Is ZooCamp treenut/peanut free?

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/guardians may be asked in advanced to refrain from sending the item(s) in question for that week. We appreciate your understanding of these requests.

Does ZooCamp have a lost & found?

Yes! If your child is missing an item during or after their camp week, please call 401-785-3510 ext. 352 or email the ZooCamp Administrator.

If I am attending the zoo as a guest, can I visit my camper?

For the safety of all campers, family and friends may not visit their camper during the camp day. Parents/guardians must give prior notice to the ZooCamp Administrator and follow our early-pick-up procedure, if they wish to walk through the zoo with their camper(s) during the camp day.

What will my camper be doing each day?

ZooCamp is designed to meet the developmental and social & emotional needs of all campers. The structure of the camp day depends on your campers age and what ZooCamp staff feels best meets the needs of the group. All campers engage in hands on activities, zoo tours, animal encounters, and learning that connects them to the natural world! Below is a sample schedule of what your camper's day may look like:

- **Check-In** *(say good morning, unpack, and play while we wait for everyone to arrive)*
- **Teambuilding Games** *(get to know each other and build teamwork skills)*
- **Animal Encounter** *(every morning we will meet an animal in our outdoor/indoor classroom)*
- **Snack & Free Play in Big Backyard**
- **Lesson of the Day** *(we will review what we learned yesterday and explore the daily theme)*
- **Activity or Craft**
- **Zoo Tour** *(we will visit a different area of the zoo each day!)*
- **Lunch & Outdoor Play**
- **Activity or Craft**
- **Stations** *(self-guided activities that promote creativity & problem-solving through play)*
- **Story, Teambuilding Game, or Mini Zoo Tour**
- **Pack-Up & Check-Out**

Check-In/Out Procedures

“Each day at pick up they couldn’t wait to tell me what they learned and what animals they were able to meet.”

2026 ZooCamp Parent

ZooCamp Check-In

We are excited for our first summer in our brand-new Conservation Learning Center! Please carefully read the updated check-in/check-out procedures below.



Check In runs from 8:15 AM-8:45 PM at the Conservation Learning Center. Please try your best to arrive within your campers designated time slot. If you are dropping off campers who have been assigned to different time slots, you may drop-off off together in either slot.

Time Slot	Group	Location
8:15-8:30	*Tadpole Academy & Adventures Group A*	Conservation Learning Center
8:30-8:45	*Conservation Heroes & Adventures Group B*	Conservation Learning Center

Important Information:

- The Conservation Learning Center is located to the left of the main admissions plaza! Please enter through the main zoo parking lot and line up at the gate to the left of the building (it will be labeled).
- Please be prepared to confirm your campers authorized pick-up list, lunch orders, medications, and if you are picking up campers in multiple age groups at the end of the day.
- If your camper has medication, you will be directed to check-in with our Zoo Nurse.

ZooCamp Check-Out

We are excited for our first summer in our brand-new Conservation Learning Center! Please carefully read the updated check-in/check-out procedures below.



Check out runs from 3:15 PM-3:45 PM at the Conservation Learning Center. Campers may only be picked-up during their designated time slot. Please let us know if you are picking up Tadpole Academy and Adventures/Conservation Heroes campers together. They will all be picked up during the Tadpole Academy check-out time.
After Care runs from 3:30-5:30. A $1/minute late fee applies after 5:30 PM.

Time Slot	Group	Location
3:15-3:30	*Tadpole Academy & Adventures Group A*	Conservation Learning Center
3:30-3:45	*Conservation Heroes & Adventures Group B*	Conservation Learning Center
3:30-5:30	*After Care (pre-registered)*	Main Gate of the Conservation Learning Center

Important Information:

- Please line up at the gate to the left of the Conservation Learning Center (it will be labeled) with your photo ID ready.
- A staff member will check your photo ID then let you down the path to your camper's classroom.
- Please be prepared to show your photo ID again when you arrive at your camper's classroom.
- **After Care ONLY:** When you arrive, please call *401-785-3510 ext. 399 or ext. 393.* A staff member will meet you at the main entrance to check your photo ID.

Authorized Pick-Up Lists



Campers will not be released to any individual not on the "Authorized Pick-Up List" maintained by parents/guardians on the Camp Brain portal. When creating this list, please ensure ALL pertinent individuals are included, including yourself, parents/guardians, grandparents, etc. For the safety of all campers, no exceptions to this policy will be made. Parents/guardians may add to their camper's list throughout the season via Camp Brain.

Approved Pick-Up Lists

For everyone's safety, Roger Williams Park Zoo requires that you provide a list of adults that are approved to pick up your camper. They must bring a Photo ID to do so.

- Names must match IDs **exactly.**
  - **Nicknames are not acceptable**
    - Example: If an ID says "Katherine," please do **NOT** list "Kate" on the Approved Pick-Up List.
  - **If an ID has a full middle name, it must be included on the Approved Pick-Up List.**
    - Newer IDs/REAL IDs include full middle names. Please check with anyone on your list to ensure the names match.
  - **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.
  - **Parents/guardians, 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/guardian, you must also add your name to the Approved Pick-Up List, as it appears on your ID.
- If a name does not appear on the Approved Pick-Up List or match **exactly,** your pick-up process will be delayed as you will have to undergo a secondary screening.
  - 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/guardians are responsible for the accuracy of their Approved Pick-Up List and maintaining it.
  - Please be considerate to the ZooCamp staff as they are working to provide a positive and safe environment for your camper.

It is the responsibility of the PARENT/GUARDIAN to ensure this list is accurate and updates as needed using the CampBrain website (here)

To Update your Approved Pick-Up List

1. Log in to the ZooCamp Camp Brain Portal
2. Under "Summer Camp 2027" click on View details
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 Complete this Form to save your changes.

Camper Attendance

Absent Campers

If your child will be absent, please leave a message at 401-785-3510 x 352 with your child's name & group. There are no refunds or make up days for missed camp time.

Arriving Late & Leaving Early

Late arrivals or early departures disrupt camp & cause staff to be pulled away from programming. Please make every effort to respect the camp schedule. If necessary, please try your best to let us know in advanced that your camper will be arriving late/leaving early by contacting 401-785-3510 ext.352.

- When you arrive, please walk up to the main gate of the Conservation Learning Center and call the number on the gate. A staff member will come out to check your Photo ID and check-in/check-out your camper.
- Please Note: Early pick-ups will not be conducted after 2:45 PM, as campers and staff are preparing for the transition to check-out.














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ZOOCAMP