

SUMMER ZOO CAMP 2022 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



Thank you for registering your camper for Summer Camp with the Buffalo Zoo!

Please read through the following policies and procedures to make sure that all campers have an exciting, fun and positive experience this summer.

PRIOR TO CAMP

Please send immunization documentation to one of the following:

rnagel@buffalozoo.org

Buffalo Zoo
Education Department
300 Parkside Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14214

Fax: (716) 995-6125

(Campers without immunization records will not be permitted in camp)

WHAT TO BRING:

Bring to Camp

- Snack and Lunch
- Comfortable Clothes
- Water Bottle
- Sensible Shoes (No Flip Flops)
- A face mask if desired

Leave at Home

- Money/Cash
- Electronic Devices (games, phones, etc.)
- Valuable Personal Items
- ALL peanut or nut products

MORNING DROP OFF

Campers should be dropped off to the right of the front entrance of the zoo (northeast end of the parking lot). There will be a large orange flag to mark the location of drop off, you may drive or walk up to the pickup location. Drop off will open at 8:40a.m. and close at 9:05a.m. Parking will be free of charge for pick up and drop off. When you enter the parking lot, please take a parking slip. If you are in the parking lot for less than 15 minutes, parking at the Zoo is free and you may follow normal directions to exiting. If you are in the parking lot longer than 15 minutes for pick up or drop off, camp staff will provide a complementary parking voucher that will allow you to exit the lot free of charge.

LATE ARRIVALS/EARLY PICK UPS

We ask that if it is at all possible to schedule regular appointments, doctor visits, etc. outside of camp hours that you please do so. If you need to drop your child off late or pick them up early on any given day, please let us know as much ahead of time as possible. If you have an appointment, emergency, or some other situation that cannot be avoided during camp we will do our best to accommodate your schedule.

AFTER CAMP PICK UP

Camp pick up will take place at the same location as drop off, you may drive or walk up to the pickup location. Pick up will begin at 3:15 p.m. Campers will only be released to adults listed on registration as authorized to pick up. A signature is required every day and ID may be requested from each adult picking up campers. Any campers remaining after 3:45 p.m. will be charged \$1 for every minute after 3:30 p.m. they are picked up. If you know you will be late, please call (716) 995-6127 and leave a message.

If campers will be picked up at the end of the day by anyone other than the person (s) indicated on your registration, please make that clear when dropping off in the morning. Additional names may be added ahead of time by contacting the camp director at (716)995-6127 or emailing rnagel@buffalozoo.org.

CAMP GEAR

Each camper will receive a logoed water bottle and drawstring bag. It is encouraged that campers bring these every day to carry personal belongings, stay hydrated, and for identification as a camper.

NAMETAGS

Your camper will receive a nametag upon arrival to camp with their name and group on it. Please have your camper wear this every day at camp. This helps with identification of campers and aids in safety and group management.

GROUPS

Zoo camp will have 96 campers every day. These campers will be split into 6 groups of 16, based on age and preferences listed in camp registration. There will be 2 counselors and an adult volunteer docent with each group of 16.

COUNSELORS

Counselors at the Buffalo Zoo go through a selective interview process. All counselors for the summer of 2022 are either pursuing or have graduated from a Bachelor's or Master's program in education or the natural sciences, and have years of previous experience working with children. They are all background checked and go through a week-long training period, where all safety policies and camp best practices are reviewed. Adult docent volunteers will be helping out with camp as well. They also go through training and a background check.

FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills will take place every Monday during camp. There are two exit points from the upstairs school classrooms– the main stairs and the back staircase. Each classroom has a chart showing which exit staircase their group should use in case of fire. Counselors are trained to count kids and lead them to a safe area. Counselors are also trained to respond to medical, natural and other emergencies that could possibly come up at camp.

NUTS AT CAMP

Due to the prevalence of nut allergies in our camper population **WE DO NOT ALLOW NUT PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND AT CAMP**. For the safety of our campers, campers' lunches will be inspected every morning at drop off for nut products.

WEATHER POLICY

We are an active camp and spend a good portion of our day outside on Zoo grounds. Camp activities continue as planned even if it is raining. Exceptions include:

- Heavy rain/downpour
- Thunder and Lightning: requires immediate moving of campers to an indoor/sheltered location.
- Any other extreme event that would require campers to be inside.

Please dress your child accordingly and if needed, apply sunscreen and/or bug spray prior to arriving at camp. Your child may bring these items with them to reapply, but are not allowed to share with others.

SICK POLICY

Vomiting results in immediate call for pick-up from camp. It will be left to the parents to decide if the child is well enough to return to camp on the following day.

Diarrhea results in immediate call for pick-up from camp. As is the policy in most schools, pre-schools, and day care centers, any child sent home due to diarrhea should be free of symptoms for 24 hours before returning to camp.

Lice results in immediate call for pick-up from camp. We have a strict "no nit" policy regarding lice. Any camper who is diagnosed with head lice may not return to camp unless they are completely nit-free.

Fever above 100.5 results in immediate call for pick-up from camp. Any camper must be fever and COVID symptom free before returning to camp. A COVID test is strongly encouraged. Any child who tests positive for COVID will not be allowed to return to camp for 10 days or a negative test result. Refunds or exchanges may be made on a case to case basis.

COVID POLICY

The Buffalo Zoo Summer Camp will follow the guidelines of the New York Department of Health. Please see <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/schools-youth> for updated policies.

Currently, wearing a mask is optional for campers. COVID policies, including mask requirements, are subject to change at any point. Please screen your camper for symptoms before camp each day.

FIRST AID POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The Zoo has staff who have completed Red Cross First Aid training and are fully equipped to deal with most first aid issues that arise during the camp day. Minor first aid issues will be recorded and reported to the camper's pickup person at the end of the day. Any injury or condition that is beyond the scope of basic first aid techniques will warrant a call to parents. If your camper will be bringing medication to camp, or has first aid circumstances that camp staff should be aware of, please contact the camp director before camp to create a medical plan (i.e. a camper with asthma bringing an inhaler to camp).

EPIPEN ADMINISTRATION

Campers who carry who bring EpiPens to camp with them may either keep the EpiPen on their person or give to a counselor to carry for the day. Please contact the camp director if your camper plans on bringing a EpiPen with them to camp.

The Zoo has staff who have completed the Anaphylaxis and Epinephrine Auto-Injector Administration Red Cross training and are able to assist and/or administer EpiPen injections. All camp counselors and docents are coached in recognizing and reporting the signs of anaphylaxis.

BEHAVIOR POLICY

While Summer Camp at the Buffalo Zoo will make every attempt to provide reasonable accommodations for campers, the camp will not accept or tolerate children that are (1) of danger to themselves, (2) of danger to others, or (3) a disruption to the normal activities making it unreasonably difficult for other children to enjoy camp programs. Any of the above reasons will be grounds for dismissal from camp. The decision to remove a child from a camp program, whether it be for the day or the entire camp, will be based on the discretion of the camp director.

PARENTAL VISITATION POLICY

Zoo camp and all of its spaces are for the use of campers and camp staff only. Parents and guardians should only be in camp spaces during morning drop off and afternoon pick-up times. The only exception to this rule is when parents need to enter camp spaces at pre-determined times for the purposes of late drop offs and early pick-ups. If this is the case, this should be discussed with the camp director before the fact.

REFUNDS

Requests must be made in writing at least one week prior to the start of Summer Zoo Camp in order to receive a refund. Fees will NOT be refunded for any reason after this date.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the camp director, Robina Nagel, at rnagel@buffalozoo.org or (716) 995-6127.

Looking forward to a great summer!

Robina Nagel