



# CAMP INFORMATION PACKET

Thank you for registering your child for a Zoo Atlanta Camp program. We are busy gearing up for a fun-filled time of Zoo activities. Plans are being made for projects, games, and of course, lots of animals! Please carefully read this packet to help prepare you and your child for a wonderful experience.

## Camp Hours:

- Camp hours 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- Please review our Drop-Off and Check-Out Procedures for details.

## Participant Safety Policies:

- We ask all participants to **stay home if they are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms** or if they have been **in contact with a COVID-positive individual** in the past 2 weeks.
- Participants will be required to sign an **online digital [waiver](#)** prior to the program.
- The Zoo will provide **sanitation materials for participant use**, including hand sanitizer, sanitation wipes, and disinfectant spray.

## Dress:

- Please send campers in weather-appropriate play clothes each day.
- Pants and shorts are recommended instead of dresses and skirts.
- Closed-toed, athletic style shoes are preferred, and flip-flops are not permitted.

## What to Bring:

- We spend as much time outside as possible, so please send a water bottle, preferably with a strap.
- We also recommend a “just in case” pair of clothes.
- Please send child with sunscreen or bug repellent if needed. Please label jackets, lunchboxes, etc. with camper’s name.
- Please send campers with a lunch and afternoon snack each day.

## Lunch and Snacks:

- Campers must bring their own lunches, afternoon snack and water bottle with them from home each day.

## General Reservations Policy

- Reservations are required prior to the program start date.
- Full payment is due upon reservation.
- No Walk-ups are permitted.
- Refunds will not be issued for no-shows or any individual no show/missed days.
- Cancellation requests received 2 weeks or less prior to program start date will result in a loss of 50% of total cost of the cancelled reservation.

## Behavioral Policy

In order to provide a safe space for Zoo team members, camp participants, Zoo guests, and animals, campers are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times.

Please review the following expectations with your camper:

1. Campers are required to follow all instructions given to them by Zoo Atlanta team members.
2. Campers are required to stay with their group at all times.



3. Safari Camp has a zero-tolerance policy for verbal and/or physical bullying. Hitting, biting, spitting and fighting is not permitted.
4. Campers should always use appropriate language. Vulgar or offensive language is not permitted.
5. Campers should only touch items that belong to them or shared materials provided by the Zoo. Touching or taking other camper items is not permitted.
6. Campers should be respectful of the animals at Zoo Atlanta. Throwing items into animal habitats, banging on habitat glass, chasing or harming animals is not permitted.

Zoo Atlanta has the right to remove a camper from Zoo Atlanta at any time. If a continual behavior problem persists, one or more of the following consequences will be enforced:

- Education staff will discuss the behavior with the camper and the parent/guardian.
- The camper will be given a “time out” or will not be allowed to participate in a subsequent activity.
- Parent/guardian will be notified by camp supervisor and the child will be sent home immediately or advised that he/she will not be allowed to return the following day/rest of the camp session.

### **Drop-Off & Check-Out Procedures & Late Fees**

#### **Drop-off & Check-Out Times**

- Drop-off for Extended Care is from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
- Regular drop-off is from 8:31 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- Regular check-out is from 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Extended Care check-out is from 4:31 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

#### **Full Day Late Check-Out Fees**

- All campers who have not purchased Extended Care and are not picked up by 4:30 p.m. will incur fees.
- If camper is picked up late between **4:31 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**, the full extended care fee will be owed.
- If camper is picked up late **after 5:01 p.m.**, you will be charged an additional \$1 for every additional minute.

#### **Check-Out Code**

On the first day of drop-off, parents will be given a printed check-out number for their children, which is required of anyone picking up your child. Please place this number on a visible part of your car's dashboard during check-out. For your camper's safety we will not release your child unless the appropriate check-out number is provided at check-out. If your child will be picked up by someone else, the number can be written on a piece of paper and be presented at check-out.

#### **Procedures**

1. Enter the Cherokee Avenue parking lot by the historical cannons. Go to the right and follow the traffic cones to the Conservation Education gate and enter the queue for both drop-off and check-out.
2. At drop-off, a counselor will greet your child and help him/her from the car. **Do not drop off a child without checking in properly with camp staff.**
3. During check-out, a staff member will relay the Check-Out Code from your dashboard to the staff to prepare your camper for check-out.
4. At Check-out, we should have your camper(s) waiting for you, provided your check-out code is visible from your dashboard.
5. Please pull out of line to adjust car seats, etc. to keep the line moving.
6. If you would like to speak with your child's counselor, please park and walk up to the gate after you have checked your child in or out for the day.
7. For the safety of campers, parents and staff, please remain in your vehicle during drop-off and check-out.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How are the campers grouped?**

- Campers are grouped by age.

### **What is a typical camp day/week like?**

- Safari Camp is a great opportunity to engage young explorers about the wild world around them and begin their journey of conservation stewardship. Through Zoo explorations, up-close animal encounters, STEAM based projects, hands-on science activities, environmental games and more, campers learn about attainable strategies and goals to combat environmental issues and are charged with finding simple ways that they can make a difference.
- While Zoo Atlanta is a great place to discover nature and wildlife, it is also important that campers have a chance to experience wildlife in a more naturalistic setting. Campers may travel out to Grant Park (which surrounds the Zoo) to participate in a variety of activities such as nature walks, environmental research and group team-building games.

### **Can my child be in the same group as his or her friend?**

- With at least one week's notice, we can **try** to place friends together in the same group if they are of similar ages and you have stipulated this request on their registration under 'Buddy Request'.
- We do not make exceptions to the age requirements. All of our activities and lessons are age-appropriate. Placing children in the incorrect group can compromise the activities.

### **Who are the camp educators?**

- Safari Camp educators are energetic, responsible, and dependable, and have an enthusiasm for wildlife and children. They are selected based on experience working with children in a camp, school, or environmental education setting.
- Educators are college graduates or are currently enrolled in college or have equivalent experience in a related field. They are required to pass criminal background and drug test and complete an extensive educator training course prior to working with campers.

### **What is the camper/educator ratio?**

- We have one educator to approximately 10 children in each group.

### **Do you allow medicine?**

- Campers are not allowed to bring any medication, prescription or over the counter to camp. The only exception is an Epi-pen and an inhaler. If your child brings an Epi-pen or an inhaler, it needs to be clearly labeled with his/her name on it and they must always carry it with them.
- If your child has severe allergies or conditions that require special attention, please make sure to note that on your child's camp health form.

### **Weather Cancellation Policy**

- All Zoo Atlanta Education programs are rain or shine. However, camp programs may be cancelled due to inclement weather, in which case the Zoo will notify participants of the cancellation as soon as possible prior to the program. If this happens, a full refund will be issued for the cancelled day.
- Unless Zoo Atlanta cancels camp, there will be no refunds given.

### **Directions to Camp**

From I-20, take exit 59A. Travel south on Boulevard to Atlanta Avenue, and turn right. Make your next right onto Cherokee Avenue. Zoo Atlanta's main parking lot (Cherokee Ave) will be on your right. Turn right into the Cherokee Avenue parking lot. The "Education Conservation" Gate is the first gate located to your right as you enter the Cherokee lot where all campers will enter. *If you arrive late for drop-off or early for pick-up, please use the Security Call-box located at the C5 gate to check in with security.*