



Safari Day Camp – Half Day Parent Information Packet

Zoo Atlanta Tax ID #: 58-165-5184

Updated Nov 2017

Dear Parents:

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

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Reservation Policies

General Reservations Policy

- Reservations are required prior to the program start date.
- Deposit is not required.
- Full payment is due upon reservation.
- Changes to reservations made 2 weeks or less prior to scheduled event date are subject to supervisor approval.
- Walk-up or 'day-of' registrations cannot be guaranteed and will incur a late registration fee:
\$20 per child for Weekly Camp
\$10 per child for Daily Camp (if a Daily Camp option is available)

Refund & No-Show Policies

- No-show means customer did not give us notice before the program.
- Refunds will not be issued for no-shows.
- Refunds will not be issued for no-show or for days missed of summer camp week
- Cancellation means the customer did contact us before the program.
- 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.



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Weather Cancellation Policy

- Camp 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. We will do our best to reschedule in the event of a cancelled program, but rescheduling is not guaranteed.
- Unless Zoo Atlanta cancels camp, there will be no refunds given.

Date Change Policy

- Date changes that occur less than 2 weeks prior to original scheduled program will incur a 25% fee per reservation.
- Date changes are subject to availability.



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General Information

Camp Hours:

- Camp hours 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.
- Please review our Drop-Off and Check-Out Procedures for details.

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, water bottles, etc. with camper’s name.

What not to bring:

- Please help us by not sending the following with your child to camp: money, jewelry, electronics, card games or collectables, fireworks, lighters, weapons, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or other inappropriate items.
- These items will be confiscated and given to the parents at the end of the day.

Lunch and Snacks:

- We provide a morning snack.
- If your child has food allergies, please make sure to pack them a snack option.
- Lunch is not scheduled for Half Day Campers, however, you may send your child with a lunch to eat while they are waiting for pick-up.

Movies:

- Educational movies can be played during camp. Movies can include but are not limited to selections from National Geographic, Animal Planet, and PBS.

Animal Contact:

- For the safety of all, direct contact with Zoo exhibit animals is not possible.
- Campers will have opportunities to have up-close encounters with our education animals (armadillo, snake, etc.) that the children may touch to enrich their experience.



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Drop-Off & Check-Out Procedures and Late Pick-Up Fees

Check-Out Code

Each Monday at drop-off (or daily, if Daily Camp is offered), parents will be given a printed check-out code for their children, which is required of anyone picking up your child. Please place this code 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 code is provided at check-out. We ask that you return the printed check-out code at the end of the week (or daily, if Daily camp is offered) as a new code will be given each Monday of camp (daily, if Daily Camp is offered).

If child will be picked up by someone else, the code can be written on a piece of paper and be presented at check-out.

Drop-off & Check-Out Times

- Drop-off is from 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- Check-out is from 12:00 noon – 12:30 p.m.

Half Day Late Fees for Check Out

- If camper is picked up late, after 12:31 p.m., you will be charged \$1 for every additional minute.

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.
8. For the safety of campers, parents, and staff, we ask that everyone follow these procedures. Parents who park and walk-up will be checked in/out after the cars in the queue.
9. Please be patient. We need to properly check in/out each child.



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Behavioral Policy

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.
- Education staff will discuss the behavior with 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.

Note: There are no refunds when a child’s own behavior requires he/she be sent home.



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Frequently Asked Questions

How are the campers grouped?

- Campers are grouped by age.

What is a typical camp day/week like? Campers will:

- Explore the Zoo, including a diversity of animal exhibits.
- Experience education animals up-close-and-personal through animal encounters.
- Create arts and crafts projects.
- Learn about animals hands-on with biofacts (bones, pelts, feathers, etc.)
- Visit shows, petting zoo, the train and carousel, and exclusive Zoo locations.
- Play fun environmental education games and activities.

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

- Prior to the first day of camp, 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'.
- With or without notice, we cannot guarantee that campers are in the same group.
- We cannot adjust camper groups after each camp session begins.
- 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 counselors?

- Camp counselors are selected based on experience working with children in a camp, school, or environmental education setting, they must be a college graduate or be currently enrolled in college, or have equivalent experience in a related field.
- Counselors must be at least 18 years of age and pass a background and drug test.
- Counselors are energetic, responsible and dependable, and have an enthusiasm for wildlife and children.

What is the camper/counselor ratio?

- We have one counselor to approximately 10 children in each group.
- We utilize Zoo Atlanta Volunteers (ages 14-17) who may assist the counselors.

What do I do with my child's medication?

- Please review and fill out the Medicine Permission Form for all medications and give to counselor at check-in daily.
- You are responsible to take back any medication you gave the instructor when you pick up your child each day.
- If your child has severe allergies or conditions that require special attention, please contact us prior to camp to ensure we are meeting all of your child's needs.

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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 Conservation/Education - C5 gate is the first gate located to your right as you enter the Cherokee Avenue parking lot – see photo below. Follow camp signs. All campers will be dropped off / picked up from the Education Conservation Gate.

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. An education staff member will come to the gate to assist you.

