LOS ANGELES ZOO CAMP

Safari Summer

PARENT GUIDE 2021
Welcome to Safari Summer!

The following information will help you and your child prepare for and enjoy their Safari Summer experience.

The Los Angeles Zoo is committed to providing dynamic experiences for all ages by bringing the wild world a little closer to the city. Safari Summer is a nurturing, safe, outdoor day camp experience for Kindergarten (age 5) to 5th grade children focused on nature, conservation, and [of course] ... animals!

ZOO CAMP: SAFARI SUMMER
CONTACT INFORMATION

Reservations -- (323) 644-4211
Zoo Camp Mobile (text or call) -- (213) 392-0055
COVID-19 Safety Rules for a Safe Summer

- Wear a mask except when eating and drinking.
- Everyone must wear a mask at check-in and check-out.
- Wash your hands for 20 seconds throughout the day.
- Register with your sibling(s) in the same class.
- Stay distanced from classroom friends.
- Get your temperature checked during check-in.
- Stay home if you do not feel good.
- Use hand sanitizer when a sink is not available.
- Give outdoor toys to staff to clean after every use.
ABSSENT CAMPERS
If your child will be absent, please call the Zoo Camp mobile phone (213) 392-0055 or email our reservations office at lazoo.reservations@lacity.org. There are no refunds or make up days for days missed. Zoo Camp participants who do not attend their registered session will not be granted a refund or be rescheduled.

ACCESSIBILITY
Zoo Camp provides an inclusive environment for campers of all abilities. We believe that the inclusive environment at Zoo Camp provides an opportunity for campers to explore, learn, and connect with animals and nature in more meaningful ways. We will gladly do our best to fulfill any accommodations to make your child’s Zoo Camp experience as pleasant and fun as possible. During the Zoo Camp registration process, please make a note of any extra support or special needs your child has. We will be in touch to create a plan. You may also call the Camp phone number to speak with the Camp Director or e-mail us at lazoo.education@lacity.org.

AIDES
If an aide will be attending with your child, please contact us at lazoo.education@lacity.org after you have registered.

ALLERGIES
We regularly host campers with allergies and do our best to accommodate their needs. Please make sure to notify your instructor at check-in on the first day of camp of specific allergies. Campers’ EpiPen are carried by their instructors who will help facilitate the administration of the medication if an emergency arises. We are not a peanut-free environment, but do offer campers with peanut allergies a safe space to eat lunch.
ARRIVING LATE AND LEAVING EARLY
Accommodations for late arrivals or early departures are disruptive to camp causing staff to be pulled away from programming but can be made. Your child may miss tours, animal encounters, or other activities. Please make every effort to respect the camp schedule. If absolutely necessary, late arrivals or early departures must be arranged in advance and can be done so by speaking with the instructor or calling lead staff at (213) 392-0055. There is a $10 fee for early pick up or late arrivals.

BATHROOM POLICY
All campers must be fully potty-trained and completely independent when using the restroom, or come to camp with an aide. Bathroom and water breaks are taken frequently throughout the day. Our policy is to guide the campers to the bathrooms, open the bathroom door, and wait outside, continuing vocal contact with the camper. We cannot empty out the bathrooms for our groups because these are public facilities, but we do maintain a safe environment for campers.

BEATING THE HEAT
We have many ways of beating the heat on those scorching hot summer days. Zoo Camp will take place primarily outdoors to uphold safety guidelines provided by the city and county of Los Angeles; indoor cool-down time may be available. Class activities and lunch will take place outdoors in tents or shaded areas. Please send your camper with a reusable water bottle; ice water is available for water bottle refills. We also suggest hats and sunscreen.
CAMPER REQUIREMENTS

In order to provide your child with the best experience possible, please share any vital information about your child’s personal needs with our staff. In an effort to provide the most meaningful, positive, and appropriate experience at Zoo Camp, we require that all campers be able to do the following:

- Follow simple directions and be able to communicate their interests and needs.
- Administer any personal medication without camp staff assistance.
- Fully and independently manage basic self-care skills like eating and toileting, or come to camp with an aide. If an aide will be attending with your child, please contact us at lazoo.education@lacity.org after you have registered.
- Correctly wear a mask over their nose and mouth except when eating and drinking.
- Stay an appropriate distance from other campers to ensure safety.

CANCELLATION POLICY

No refunds will be given for cancellations made less than 14 days prior to the program date. For cancellations made 14 days or more in advance of the program date, a 75% refund will be given. The Los Angeles Zoo reserves the right to cancel any program. In the event that The Los Angeles Zoo cancels a program, all program fees will be refunded. Cancellation requests must be made in writing and sent to lazoo.reservations@lacity.org. Please include your name, the program name and date you are asking to cancel, your confirmation number, and your phone number.
The ABC's of Safari Summer

CHECK-IN
Zoo Camp check-in takes place at the Children’s Discovery Center. Parking is free in most areas, and you may park as close as you can to the entrance. Zoo Camp staff will be stationed outside the double glass doors every day promptly at 8:45 a.m. Check-in is from 8:45-9:15 a.m. In order to provide a smooth check in process please review your registration forms prior to check in. You will need to have all your appropriate Zoo Camp forms filled out (Health History and Waiver Release forms). We will provide extra copies for families who were not able to download or print at home. You will be asked to verify your phone number and persons authorized to pick your child up in the afternoon. Make sure to bring:
• Completed Health History and Waiver Release forms, on your child’s first day of camp.
• Child’s lunch, snacks, and water bottle each day
• Appropriate clothing and protection for inclement weather (e.g. hats, jackets, umbrellas, sunscreen) each day
• Closed-toe shoes each day

CHECK-OUT
Zoo Camp check-out takes place at the Children’s Discovery Center. Parking is free in most areas, and you may park as close as you can to the entrance. Zoo Camp staff will be stationed outside the double glass doors every day at 2:50 p.m. Check-out is from 2:50-3:15 p.m. The people you have authorized to pick up your child (including yourself) will be required to show photo identification upon check-out each day and will be required to sign campers out. For safety reasons, we will not release a child to anyone other than the persons you designate. Please make sure that all persons authorized to pick up your child are listed on the sign in/out sheet when they are checked-in in the morning. Make sure to bring:
• Photo identification.

YOU MUST WEAR A MASK FOR CHECK-IN AND CHECK-OUT
**ELECTRONICS**
In order to provide the best experience for all, cell phones, electronic tablets, iPods/MP3 players and any other electronic devices are prohibited from being used during their time at Zoo Camp.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER**
Upon signing in your child, you will be provided an emergency contact number slip containing multiple numbers you can reach us at. If you have any emergency where you will be late or need to pick up your child early, please call or text the Zoo Camp mobile at 213-392-0055. If you are unable to reach us, please try the next number until you are able to reach us. Extra staff are required for extended care and early pickups. Therefore, additional charges will apply. You can pay your fee at the reservations window to the right of the double glass doors at the Children’s Discovery Center.

**EXTENDED CARE**
Extended Care is supervised play time with rotations that can include games, animal themed activities, outdoor/indoor play, and a movie. If you are running late to pick up your camper from PM Extended Care, please call the Zoo Camp mobile phone to let us know your ETA. There is a $1/minute charge for pick-up that occurs after PM Extended Care has ended.
PM Extended Care ends at 5:30 p.m.
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GOLDEN RULES OF ZOO CAMP: SAFARI SUMMER

- Be polite and kind to animals and humans
- Wear your mask over your nose and mouth
- Keep our space between our friends
- Two feet on the street
- Stay with your camp group at all times
- Use the buddy system when using the Zoo’s restrooms
- Keep hands and feet to yourself
- Sharing is Caring
- Do not approach or touch an animal unless you have been instructed to do so
- Silence is golden in front of the animal exhibits and during keeper talks
- Leave your space cleaner than when you found it

Failure to abide by these rules will lead to consequences and/or removal from the Zoo Camp Program.

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HANDWASHING

In order to provide a safe environment, campers will be required to wash their hands often throughout the day. Soap, water, and sinks will be available for each class to use. Please review 20 second hand washing practices with your camper before they begin camp.
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ILLNESS
In the event your child is sick and will be absent for the day, please call the Zoo Camp mobile phone (213) 392-0055 or email the Reservations office at lazoo.reservations@lacity.org. We request that you notify us in the event of an absence, as it is helpful for planning purposes. If your child becomes sick while at camp we will provide a quiet, safe space so that the camper can rest. If they do not feel any better after resting, or if they have a fever or exhibit other outward signs of illness, you can anticipate a call from lead staff to notify you that your camper is sick and will need to be picked up immediately. In our efforts to help keep a safe environment for all our campers, including those who may be immune compromised, we ask that you not send sick children to camp.

INJURIES
If your child gets a minor injury like a bee sting or a scraped knee, we will apply first aid (e.g. ice pack and a band aid). If your child needs a little time, we will provide a quiet, safe space so that the camper can rest and recuperate. Parents will be notified with an “Ouch” slip during check-out for minor injuries.

KEEPER TALKS
Camp groups will usually have the opportunity to participate in a discussion with a Zoo Keeper during the week. Due to the sensitive nature of many of endangered species, we ask that you review the “Golden Rules of Zoo Camp” with your child prior to their camp week. For the safety of our animals and campers, the Keeper Talk may be cancelled by our Animal Care or Zoo Camp staff at any time.
LICE
Just like at your camper’s school, we suggest checking your camper for head lice regularly. If we suspect your camper of head lice, we will notify you immediately. The camper can finish their Zoo Camp day (precautions will be taken to prevent the spreading of head lice) or leave early with parent approval; however, the camper needs to receive treatment at home for head lice prior to returning to Zoo Camp. All parents will be notified if a camper has head lice to prevent an infestation.

LOST AND FOUND
The Zoo is not responsible for loss or damage of any personal items brought to Zoo Camp. Campers should avoid bringing jewelry or other irreplaceable items. Found articles will be kept in the lost and found bin during your Zoo Camp week. Please notify Zoo Camp staff if you need to locate a lost item. You may inquire about lost items by calling the Zoo Camp mobile number (213) 392-0055 or ask camp staff during check-in/out.

LUNCH AND SNACKS
You must provide your child with a snack, lunch, and water bottle each day. For campers who are signed up for Extended Care, we highly recommend packing extra snacks. Please label your child’s snacks before packing them in their lunch. This will help facilitate their distribution while out in the zoo. Throughout the day we make frequent stops at drinking fountains to keep the campers properly hydrated. No vending! Please make sure your child comes to the zoo with no money in hand.
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MASKS
We require that all members of Zoo Camp: Safari Summer (campers, staff, parents, etc) wear masks over their mouth and nose while participating in camp. Campers will be allowed to remove masks when eating and drinking only. Please send an extra clean mask every day with your camper in case they need a replacement. Masks are to be worn over the mouth and nose of all parents and guardians during Check-in and Check-out. There will be no exceptions made.

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PAPERWORK
You will be required to turn in all Zoo Camp forms (Health History and Waiver Release) on your child’s first day of camp. We will provide extra copies for parents who were not able to download or print at home. If you are attending multiple weeks of Summer Zoo Camp only one of each form needs to be submitted. We will keep these forms on file for the season. If any information changes, please re-submit these forms with updated information.

MEDICATIONS
We do not administer medication of any kind during Zoo Camp. We are allowed to remind campers to take their medication. If a camper has a medical emergency of any kind, instructors and/or lead staff always contact 911 and follow-up with Zoo Security. Please contact Zoo Camp staff at lazoo.education@lacity.org if you have any further questions in regards to medications.
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PARENTS
Parents are welcomed to escort their campers to their classrooms and help them get ready for morning activities. Camp staff are committed to making Zoo Camp a fun and meaningful experience for your child. As a courtesy to our staff, once your child is checked in, we do ask that you leave the immediate area to help avoid confusion and allow the child time to start bonding with their group and fellow campers.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING
In order to keep everyone safe, we must enforce physical distancing between campers. All activities and classrooms have been set-up with physical distancing considered. Please review 6 feet physical distancing with your camper prior to the beginning of their camp week.

SANITIZATION
All classrooms will be sanitized often throughout the day. All playground equipment and supplies will be sanitized after every use.

SCHEDULE
Below is a general schedule outline for the Camp day, and is subject to change as needed.

- 9:15-9:20 -- Welcome and Good Morning!
- 9:20-9:40 -- Intro to theme of the day
- 9:40-10:15 -- Snack & Zoo Tour
- 10:15-12:00 -- Zoo Tour
- 12:00-12:30 -- Lunch Break
- 12:30-1:00 -- Free Time
- 1:00-2:50 -- Activities and Craft
- 2:50-3:15 -- Camp Check-out

SHOPPING
Campers are not permitted to purchase any items from the zoo concession stands, gift shops, or restaurants during Zoo Camp sessions. Please do not send money to camp with your child for any reason.
STAFF AND CLASSROOM INFORMATION

Each camp is led by trained instructors and counselors. Camp staff are required to have previous experience with children and many staff return from previous years. Since staff are all City of Los Angeles employees they do undergo a thorough background check. The maximum class size is ten to accommodate physical distancing. Siblings and relatives should be in the same class this summer to limit exposure and keep everyone safe.

SYMPTOMS CHECK

Each camper will have their temperature scanned daily during Check-in. Any camper displaying symptoms of illness will be quarantined until they can be picked up by an authorized adult. Please do not send your child(ren) to camp if they are showing any signs of illness.

T-SHIRTS

Campers are required to wear Zoo Camp t-shirts every day. This is a safety precaution and allows us to recognize campers easily among other visitors. T-shirts will be distributed the first day of camp. Available sizes are: Youth S, M, L, and Adult S, M, L. You will be asked to provide the t-shirt size for your child during registration. While we make every attempt to ensure your child receives the size requested, please note that t-shirt sizes are subject to availability on the day of distribution.

For Summer Zoo Camp, each camper will receive two shirts for the week. (Campers attending Summer Zoo camp for more than one week will receive two shirts the first week and one shirt every week following.)
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WAITLISTS
At this time we do not have the capacity to maintain a waitlist. If the camp you were hoping for is full, we recommend regularly checking our registration webstore for availability.

WEATHER
Zoo Camp runs rain or shine. Please send your child ready for inclement weather. Hats are strongly encouraged. Closed toed shoes are a requirement.

Thank you

Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens
Learning & Engagement / Zoo Camp
5333 Zoo Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(323) 644-4200
lazoo.org