



## 2026 Summer Camp Guidelines

Registering Caregiver is  
responsible for alerting  
additional caregivers of camp  
guidelines and procedures  
described.

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## Purchasing and Pricing Guidelines

### Member and Non-member Pricing

Members of the Little Rock Zoo will be charged the member price on all camps according to Little Rock Zoo's member discount guidelines. If you wish to receive member pricing, you must have a Zoo membership before registration.

### Payment

Payments should be made online upon registration. Registration is not considered confirmed without completed payment.



### Cancellations, Transfers and Refunds

If you need to cancel a purchase or transfer a camp to another session, email or call [Kjohanson@littlerock.gov](mailto:Kjohanson@littlerock.gov) or (501) 661-7220.

A refund equal to 50% of the purchase price may be given when the refund is requested a minimum of four weeks before the start of the camp, this includes any goods or services purchased in conjunction with the camp. If a refund is requested within four weeks of camp, no refund will be given. If multiple camps have been purchased, and a refund is requested, amounts refunded will begin with the least expensive camp and progress higher in purchase price as needed according to purchases within the same transaction.

When possible, the Little Rock Zoo can transfer a camp registration to another session within the same season for the same registrant. The ability to transfer a camp is based on availability within rosters and other planning related variables.

### Miscellaneous

The Little Rock Zoo reserves the right to alter the age ranges used to create rosters. Altering age ranges may be used as a method to keep the number of campers in each camp at a safe and manageable amount.

During Zoofari camp seasons, a train and/or carousel ride is a possibility but not guaranteed.

## A Day in the Life of a Zoofari Camper

This schedule is an example of a full-day camp and does not guarantee that a camper will experience everything. Not all activities listed in the example schedule are available for all camps. See the "Details for a Great Camper Experience" section for further information.

### Daily Schedule

Time	Activity
8:00-8:30	Check in
8:30-8:45	Ice-Breaker, camp expectations, and guidelines
8:45-9:00	Restroom break and prep for adventure
9:00-11:00	Zoo-wide activities + Snack
11:00-12:00	Lunch, clean up, and bathroom break
12:00-12:45	Conservation Connections and full camp activity
12:45-1:00	Transition to afternoon activities
1:00-2:00	Zoo-wide activities + Snack
2:00-2:30	Special Experience
2:30-3:45	Camp craft or final activity, clean up, prepare for departure
3:45-4:00	Check out

Details for  
a Great  
Zoofari  
Camp

### Experience!

#### Check-in and Checkout

When dropping off or picking up a camper please park in the Zoo's side parking lot across from the Jim Dailey Fitness Center and walk with your camper(s) until you meet with an education department staff person who can assume supervision of the camper(s). We typically meet at the picnic table area, pending any inclement weather. Please do not leave your camper(s) until a member of the education department staff has assumed supervision of the camper(s).

Morning Check-in - Staff will be in place from 8:00 – 8:30am.

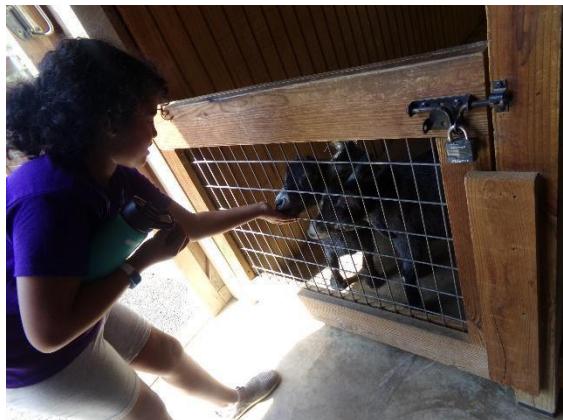
Afternoon Checkout - Staff will be in place from 3:45 – 4:00pm.

**Please allow up to 15 minutes for the check-in/out process. Remember, only designated caregivers with proper ID will be permitted to pick up a camper.**

## Late Check-in

Please make every effort to arrive for check-in during the scheduled arrival time of 8:00-8:30 am. After 8:30, the gates to the parking lot will be locked for the safety and security of campers and camp staff. Should you arrive between 8:30 and 9:00, please park your vehicle in the general parking lot and walk your camper to the pedestrian gate entrance located just passed the carousel. Staff members will remain in this area as campers are preparing to enter the zoo. After 9:00am, please bring your camper to the admission window at the front gate entrance. The staff member present at the window will radio a member of the education staff to meet your camper and unite them with their group. Please understand that late entry of a camper is a disruption to not only the schedule of support provided by education staff but also the themed flow of programming and activities that have been so carefully crafted for your camper to enjoy. Your prompt arrival for check-in is greatly appreciated.

## Early Pickup



If you need to check out your camper prior to the scheduled departure time of 3:45-4:00, please inform a member of the education staff when you drop off your camper that morning. In this case, we will make our best effort to have your camper available at the front gate entrance at the requested time. If you encounter an emergency need to check out your camper during the day, please come to the admission window at the front gate entrance. Inform the staff member present at

the window of your camper's name and camp color (armband provided daily) and they will radio our team to retrieve your camper for pickup. Please understand that it may take up to 15 minutes for your camper to be delivered to you depending on their location and activity at time of the request.

**NOTE:** Please be advised that early pickups should be completed by 3:00. At this time, our staff begins preparing campers for their departure and cannot accommodate any further pickups prior to checkout.

## late Pickup

Please make every effort to arrive for checkout during the scheduled departure time of 3:45-4:00. Should an issue arise, we will, of course, remain with your child until an authorized individual can pick them up. However, repeated delays in pickup may result in per-minute charges assessed after the 4:00 pm deadline. Please understand that after-hours departure of a camper requires additional time and cost in staffing.

## General Release Form

A General Release Form, submitted electronically, is required for each camper prior to their admission to camp. This form includes emergency contact information and lists the individuals (up to 6) who are authorized to pick up campers at the end of the day with appropriate ID. Individuals not listed on the General Release Form will not be permitted to pick up a camper and the primary caregiver will be contacted immediately for alternate arrangements.

**This form is completed with registration. Please review this form online prior to arrival on Monday morning.**

## Meals

Camper lunch will not be provided by the Little Rock Zoo. Caregivers should send their camper with a lunch meal for each day of camp attendance. Please be aware that we do not offer a cold storage opportunity for lunches brought from home. Please plan accordingly and pack lunches with ice packs, as needed.

Campers will be provided with 2 snacks daily:

- 1 Mid-Morning Snack including any one of the following options:
  - Goldfish crackers
  - Cereal bar
  - Individual fruit serving
  - Pretzels
  - Cheez-it crackers
  - Popcorn
- 1 Mid-Afternoon Snack from the options previously mentioned
- Occasional treats such as popsicles may be offered from time to time

**NOTE:** When packing your own snack, please limit nut products where possible. We are not a nut-free camp but aim to be as mindful of common dietary sensitivities/allergies as we can. Nuts can be included in animal diets around the Zoo, so we try to limit exposure in the classrooms.

Please do not include plastic straws or Styrofoam containers. To reduce plastic consumption and protect our exhibit animals, the Zoo has eliminated the use of Styrofoam and plastic straws. Thank you for your help!

## Hydration

Please send a reusable water bottle with a lid with your camper each day. Opportunities to refill water bottles are available throughout the day. Campers are responsible for keeping track of their water bottle. Please write the camper's name on the water bottle. The camper, and the individual checking out the camper, are responsible for collecting and washing the water bottle at the end of each day.

## Supervision and Safety

All Zoo employees must undergo a background check and educators must be at least 18 years old to be hired. In addition to paid Zoo staff, trained volunteers, teen program participants, and City of Little Rock Summer Youth Employees may assist with camp. Group sizes will be limited to a maximum of 10 campers per 1-2 guides with additional support when available or needed. The Conservation Education Manager and Programs Coordinator provide day-to-day oversight and supervision of camp programs.



## Camper Expectations

Campers will be supervised and must be able to participate within a group setting. Camp involves a significant amount of walking, or movement around the Zoo, and activities involving multi-step instructions. Campers must be able to communicate bathroom needs to staff and utilize restroom facilities unassisted. A camper who has more than one restroom accident during the camp day will be asked to be picked up. If additional assistance may be needed, please consult the camp manager at the Zoo before registering.

## Behavior

Behavior is monitored to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all camp participants. Zoofari staff will communicate guidelines and expectations each morning of camp. These include the following:

- 1- one finger up and then to mouth = Zoo Talk
  - Use calm, quiet voices while in the zoo
- 2- two fingers up and then turned over to walking fingers = Zoo Walk
  - Use calm, steady walk while in the zoo (no running or climbing)
- 3- middle, ring, and pinky up with thumb and index touching = ASL for "F"
  - Reminder to follow instructions
- 4- both index fingers and thumbs up in pinching shape and then turn to create a heart = offer kindness
  - Use caring words and actions toward self and others
- 5- all five fingers up and then high five a neighbor = have fun

Caregivers are encouraged to share these guidelines with their campers prior to arrival at camp. If a camper's behavior becomes disruptive or a safety concern, caregivers will be contacted to help find a solution. If improvement is not seen, it may be asked that the camper not return to camp.

## **Zoofari Camp Shirts**

Zoofari Camp T-shirts are mandatory and must be worn daily. This provides visual accountability of campers within the Little Rock Zoo. Each camper will receive one (1) complimentary T- shirt for each week of camp purchased. For those who have purchased multiple camp weeks, all T- shirts for these camps will be provided during their initial camp check-in. Additional camp shirts may be purchased for \$8.00 each.

## **First Aid**

Most minor injuries can be successfully managed on Zoo grounds by those with proper training and a well-stocked first aid kit. Many Zoo employees and veterinary staff are trained to handle injuries for all guests and zoo employees. These staff members make up the First Aid Team and are certified in first aid, adult and child CPR, use of AEDs, and the on-site injury protocol. Should a camper require minor first aid, the First Aid Team will respond, and the incident will be documented. Caregivers will be notified at pick up of any minor first aid provided during camp. Any injury or medical event that requires more than minor first aid will be responded to by the First Aid Team and Safety Coordinator, up to and including calling EMS. Camper emergency contacts will immediately be called should a camper require more than minor first aid.

## **Medications**

Zoo staff cannot apply/dispense medication, protectants, or repellants. Please help your camper apply sunscreen/repellent prior to dropping off or ensure that they can apply it themselves. Rare exceptions can be made in an exceptional situation – and with caregiver authorization/notification. Examples include:

- Benadryl cream or sting sticks are needed for large insect bites / allergic reactions.
- Benadryl for anaphylaxis – only if an ambulance has been called and the action is verified with the 911 operator.
- Aspirin for a suspected heart attack or stroke – only if an ambulance has been called and the action is verified with the 911 operator and must only be administered by a trained first aid team member.

Any prescribed medications that need to be administered to a camper must be accompanied by a medication form. All medications will be secured in an on-ground locker during the camp week. Please contact us at [EdPrograms@littlerock.gov](mailto:EdPrograms@littlerock.gov) to receive this form for submission to camp supervisors.

## **Accommodation or Special Requests**

We want all campers to have a positive experience at camp! Please let us know if there are any considerations you would like our staff to be aware of and we will do our best to accommodate (i.e. my camper is shy, my camper does not enjoy loud noises, my camper likes having a buddy in new situations, my camper is most successful when... etc.). This will help us ensure your camper has a great week. Please contact us at [EdPrograms@littlerock.gov](mailto:EdPrograms@littlerock.gov) with any questions, concerns, or requests not included in your registration.

## **Caregiver Involvement**

Zoofari camp is designed as a drop-off program for campers ages 6-12. Caregivers may not stay with or follow camps after morning drop off. Should your child need additional support or accommodation, please contact the education department before registering to discuss options. We aim to ensure every camper has a great experience at the Zoo.

## **Weather and Clothing**

Camp will be held rain or shine unless inclement weather or other unforeseen issues force the Zoo to close for the day. In the event the Zoo does close and programs are canceled, caregivers will be notified as soon as possible.

Campers spend a large portion of time outdoors. You can help your camper prepare for the weather and summer heat by:

- Spending more time outside prior to the first week of camp to help them acclimate to the warmer temperatures
- Building a hydration habit as a family –this will be especially important in the evenings after a long day of camp
- Helping your camper apply sunscreen in the morning
- Providing a hat or other head covering to protect their head and face
- Providing rain jackets/boots, ponchos, and/or a change of socks for drizzly days

Due to the nature of activities planned for camp, closed-toe shoes are required. This helps keep your campers' feet safe and ensures they can fully participate in all activities/experiences.

## **Bringing Items to Camp**

It is highly recommended that items such as electronics, money, toys, and stuffed animals are left at home. Cameras can be utilized by campers to take photos of animals and Zoo spaces only. Any cameras that become a distraction to the group or are used inappropriately will be collected until the end of the day and returned to the camper's adult during check out. The Zoo is not responsible for any lost or damaged items.

**NOTE:** Please do not send cell phones to camp. Encourage your camper to discuss issues such as illness with their camp guide directly so that our camp supervisors can be informed and make proper contact with caregivers.

## **Lost and Found**

If items are lost during camp and then found in the Zoo, they will be turned into guest services at the front gate of the Zoo. Please notify camp staff if your camper has lost an item and we will try to help locate it.