

Seneca Park Zoo Summer ZooCamp 2020 FAQ

Are Summer ZooCamps happening in 2020?

Seneca Park Zoo is committed to offering Summer ZooCamp this year, unless the current restrictions prevent us from doing so. As we do not anticipate the Zoo being opened, we have canceled the 3 & 4 year-old ZooCamps that were scheduled for the weeks of June 1 through June 22. We are, however, planning to begin ZooCamps on June 29.

If the situation changes and we are not able to start camp as planned, we will let you know as soon as possible. We appreciate your understanding and flexibility as we navigate our way through this evolving situation.

How will the Zoo manage group sizes and maintain a level of social distancing?

We have reduced the capacity of each camp session based on the classroom space, so campers can be seated with distance between them, and individual camp groups will remain isolated from each other.

The Zoo is also opening with reduced guest capacities to allow for distancing throughout the campus, and we will be instituting alternative procedures for drop-off and pick-up. These specific instructions will be shared with you closer to your camp.

Will masks be required in camp?

We will follow state and local guidelines regarding masks, which currently require masks for everyone over 2 years of age. However, there will be times in camp, such as during snack and lunch, when masks will not be worn.

Will there be health screenings?

The health and safety of our campers, staff, and animals is our top priority. All Zoo staff and volunteers are screened with a temperature scan upon arriving at the Zoo each day. Campers will also be screened by confirming that neither they or anyone in their household is exhibiting signs of Covid-19. Anyone, staff or camper, who is sick or has someone in their household who is sick, must stay home.

How will cleanliness be maintained?

Classrooms and commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected multiple times per day. Counselors and campers will also engage in frequent hand washing.

Will there be changes to camp activities?

For the safety of campers, staff, and animals, we will not be participating in some activities that have traditionally been included with camp (e.g. behind-the-scenes, assist a keeper). However, ZooCamp will still immerse kids in wildlife, the environment, and the need to protect and care for both. And, campers will explore nature and animals, create projects, share ideas, and make new friends.

Research has demonstrated the healing and therapeutic effects of nature, and after months of social isolation, children could also benefit from the socialization that camp offers. ZooCamp can provide an escape that focuses on fun and learning.

Will Before and After Care still be offered?

Yes, we will be offering Before and After Care for those who need it. To maintain separation of camps, there will be a counselor present from each session of camp, which has a camper in Before or After Care. If you would like to have your camper in Before or After Care, please register in advance, so we can schedule counselors accordingly.

Additional questions?

Please contact us at education@senecazoo.org.