

## Seneca Park Zoo - ZooCamp FAQ

### **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 will also be open with reduced guest capacities to allow for distancing throughout the campus. Drop-off and pick-up procedures were changed to provide more space at the Zoo's entrance. Specific instructions for drop-off and pick-up 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 nor 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 hybrid or remote learning, children could also benefit from the socialization that camp offers. ZooCamp can provide an escape that focuses on fun and learning.

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### **New Cancellation Policy:**

If the Zoo needs to cancel a program, confirmed registrants will be sent an email notifying them of the cancellation and providing them with these options:

- rescheduling to another date
- receiving a refund of registration fees
- converting registration fees into a tax-deductible contribution

Registrants will have ten business days to make a decision and notify the Zoo. If we have not received an answer after ten business days from our initial contact, the registration fee will be converted to a donation, and the registrant will receive a letter confirming the tax-deductible contribution.

### **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.

### **Does my child's age have to fall within the listed age bracket to enroll for a particular camp?**

Yes. We design the camps with particular ages in mind, so it is important to be mindful of the age limitations.

### **What's a typical day like for the campers?**

On any given day, campers will tour the Zoo, make crafts, read stories, attend talks, play games, and meet program animals, all relating to their camp topic.

### **What is the cost?**

Each cost listed is for one week of ZooCamp.

For members: \$150 for half-day; \$245 for full day

For non-members: \$170 for half day; \$270 for full day

### **Why is the half-day option missing?**

There are only 5 half-day slots available for each school-age camp. If the option is missing from the website those slots have already been filled. If you would like to be added to the wait list, please call 585.336.7213.

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### **Is food provided?**

We provide snacks in the morning and afternoon, but campers must bring their own lunch and water bottle. ZooCamp is peanut-free due to allergy concerns. Please refrain from packing anything for your camper with peanuts or peanut butter.

### **What do campers do during lunch?**

Campers have an hour to relax, eat, and have fun from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. During this time, they have the option of watching a movie, drawing, or quiet free-play. Crafts, playground time, or other activities may also be available during lunch depending on the day.

### **Will the counselors for the special needs camp be certified in special education?**

No, our counselors are not certified or extensively trained in special education; however, our camp counselors do receive pre-camp training that includes basic skills for working with children who have special needs. Our instructors possess respect and understanding for children and a deep passion for the natural world. They are well trained in interpretive techniques, group management, and activity facilitation.

### **Additional questions?**

Please contact us at [education@senecazoo.org](mailto:education@senecazoo.org).