



Updated 12/2023

WINTER/SPRING SAFARI PARENT GUIDE

Preparing your child for fun and success at Winter/Spring Safari camp

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CAMP LINE 515-974-2550

If at any time you need to reach a staff member during camp hours, you may do so by calling the Camp Office at 515-974-2550 or email us at camps@blankparkzoo.org.

PRE-CAMP COMMUNICATION

After your registration is processed, a confirmation email will be sent. Call 515-974-2550 if a confirmation email is not received within 24 hours. The week before camp, you will receive a pre-camp email with instructions for drop-off and pick-up.

SEESAW

We use the app Seesaw for communication with parents during camp weeks. The week before camp, registration links will be sent to families to link to their camper's profile. All campers will be archived at the end of each camp week. To download Seesaw, [click here](#).

CLOTHING

- **What not to wear:** skirts, dresses and delicate or special clothes are not advised. Campers will play and get dirty!
- **Dress for the weather:** Camp runs daily, hot or cold, rain or shine. Please make sure your child comes prepared for each day and dressed for the weather. Most camp activities take place outdoors, regardless of rain, wet, heat or cold. We recommend waterproof boots and a change of socks on rainy days, hats and coats on cold days, and short sleeves and pants on hot days.
- **Labels:** Please label your child's belongings. Any unclaimed items after camp will be turned into the lost and found at Zoo Admissions. Lost and Found items are kept for generally one month before they are discarded or donated.
- **Footwear:** Closed-toe shoes are strongly recommended. **No flip flops** are allowed as they make it difficult for playing and walking.
- **Backpack:** Please send your child with a bag or backpack each day with a change of clothes and to help bring home materials from camp.
- **Change of clothes:** Though not required, we always appreciate you sending a spare set of clothes in campers' backpacks in case of accidents/spills.

LUNCHES & SNACKS

Campers receive a morning and an afternoon snack each day (included as a part of camp registration – no extra fee). Snacks might include items such as: crackers, veggie straws and frozen treats (these items are tentative, subject to change and vary from day to day).

Campers may bring a snack from home in place of, or addition to, provided snacks. These snacks, however, may only be consumed during designated snack times unless there is a health concern discussed with camp staff prior to the start of camp or during Monday morning drop-off.

Children enrolled in a full-day camp will need to bring a sack lunch. During the day, all lunches are stored in grade level tubs in a large refrigerator. Re-heating is not available.

****Food items containing nuts are not served during camp. However, we cannot guarantee a nut-free environment. Camp kids often bring their own lunch items containing nuts, and nuts are a regular part of our animal diets. Please disclose all participant food allergies during registration. To discuss concerns or request special accommodations, please contact camps@blankparkzoo.org or call 515-974-2550.*

MEDICATION

If you are bringing any medication to camp with your child (including rescue inhalers and EpiPens), you must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Morning/evening dose of medications should be given before or after your child attends camp. Only medications with a dosage schedule that cannot be adjusted for camp hours should be administered during the day.
- ALL medications must be given to a Camp Supervisor by an adult. Prescription medications must be in the child's name and in its original bottle. Adult should advise whether the medication should be returned at the end of each day or stay at the Zoo for the duration of camp.
- A medication authorization form must be filled out completely for each medication to be administered at camp. We will NOT administer medication without a completed form until we are able to reach a parent by phone.
- All medications must be in their original packaging and labeled with appropriate prescription, dosing and/or pharmaceutical information. Liquid medication must be accompanied with an appropriate measuring cup/syringe.
- We must have the child's first and last name and exact time medication is to be given.
- We are unable to accept damaged/expired medications or loose medicine in unmarked packaging or give medication on an "as needed" basis.

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

Both drop-off and pick-up take place curbside. Drop-off begins at 8:45 am. Please follow our signs for drop-off or see the drop-off/pick-up map located at the end of this document.

Pick-up is from 4:00-4:15 pm. Please honor our pick-up times.

LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY PICK-UP

Camp Drop-off ends at 9:00 am. If you arrive between 9:00-10:00 am, please call our office staff at 515-974-2550 and let them know that you are dropping off a camper and camp staff will be radioed to pick up your child at Zoo Admissions. After 10:00 am, Zoo Admissions staff can assist you.

Families who would like to pick up their child early from day camps (prior to 3:50 pm) may do so. Please notify camp staff of your pick-up time in advance to ensure a safe and organized check-out process. Camp staff can be notified via Seesaw or by calling 515-974-2550.

Please note, Zoo admission hours are 10 am-3:30 pm. If you need to drop-off/pick-up your child outside of our designated drop-off/pick-up times and before/after Zoo admission hours, please call 515-974-2550 as Zoo admissions will be locked.

BEFORE/AFTER CARE

Before and after care are not available during Winter and Spring Safari Camps.

LATE FEES

If you know in advance that you will be late to pick up your child, please let us know by calling the camp parent line at 515-974-2550. Camp ends at 4:00 pm and check-out ends at 4:15 pm.

If you arrive after 4:15 pm you will be charged a fee of \$5 for every 15 minutes after 4:15 pm.

CAMP AGE GROUPS

Winter Safari Camp is a drop-off program for children ages 5-9 years of age. It is important to us that your child receives the best experience. As such, we hope that you will help us by honoring the age guidelines.

CAMP STAFF

Our seasonal camp staff are often college students studying natural sciences and/or education. Camps may also be staffed by full-time educators currently working at the Zoo.

Each camp group is led by 2-3 counselors. Groups may also be assisted by teen volunteers.

CAMP EXPECTATIONS

Campers and staff alike are required to follow camp expectations at all times to ensure everyone stays safe and enjoys their time at camp. We will go over camp expectations with campers on the first day of camp, but we encourage you to review these expectations with your child prior to camp.

Be Safe

Everyone's safety is our highest priority! In order to keep campers safe, we ask everyone to stay with the group at all times, do not climb up fences or into exhibits, wear appropriate clothing and footwear, and refrain from fighting (even play fighting) as it may result in serious injuries.

Be Respectful

Simply put, respect means to be nice. We all need to work to be nice to each other, respecting each other's space, listening with our whole bodies and using kind words. This also includes respecting the plants and animals at the Zoo by not picking the plants or their leaves, tapping on the glass at animal exhibits or yelling at the animals.

Be Responsible

At Safari Camp we share, we clean up after ourselves and we conserve our resources. This means we take turns, push in our chairs, we throw trash and recycling in the appropriate bins and we do not waste camp supplies.

SAFETY POLICIES

Authorized Pick-Up

Safety is our highest priority. We thank you in advance for adhering to our authorized pick-up policy and the staff enforcing it.

Adults picking up a camper are required to show a valid, photo ID. When registering your child for camp, you will be asked for names to list as Authorized Pick-Up. We will not release a child to anyone who is not listed as Authorized Pick-Up. If an adult needs to be added to the list after registration is complete you may do so by calling or emailing the Camp Office or during check-in.

Restroom Policy

Children will always be accompanied to public restrooms and will never be allowed to enter a restroom alone with Zoo visitors. The “rule of three” is followed to ensure an educator or volunteer is never alone inside a restroom with an individual child.

Illness and Exclusion from Camp Policy

Blank Park Zoo follows the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services criteria on child illness and exclusion from programs for education and child care settings.

Children are not allowed to attend camp and/or are required to be sent home when their illness causes one or more of the following:

- Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities.
- Requires a need for care that is greater than camp staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- An acute change in behavior occurs: lethargy, lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or a quickly spreading rash.
- A temperature that is above 101 degrees F [38.3 degrees C] by any method.

Common illnesses guidelines:

Illness	Exclusion from Camp	Criteria to Return to Camp
COVID-19	If able to wear a mask correctly and consistently, exclude for 5 days from positive test (if no symptoms) or symptom onset. If unable to wear a mask, choose not to wear a mask, have moderate or severe COVID-19 illness, or are immunocompromised exclude for 10 days.	On day 6 if fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and if symptoms have improved. Per CDC guidance, should wear a mask from days 6-10. On Day 11 if fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.
Diarrhea	Yes, if child has 2 or more loose stools in 24 hours or blood in stool.	When diarrhea stops and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Headache	No, if child is able to remain with group and participate in activities. Camp staff are unable to provide or administer medications such as Tylenol or ibuprofen without written consent.	If excluded due to presence of other exclusion criteria, resolution of exclusion criteria.
Influenza	Yes	When child is fever free for 24 hours and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Strep Throat	Yes	When resolution of exclusion criteria and after 24 hours of antibiotic.
Vomiting	Yes	When vomiting has resolved and resolution of exclusion criteria.



DROP-OFF & PICK-UP LOCATIONS

Age Group	Drop-Off Period	Pick-Up Period
Ages 5-6	8:50-9:00 am	4:00-4:15 pm
Ages 7-9	8:50-9:00 am	4:00-4:15 pm

