



SCHOOL YEAR SAFARI CAMP PARENT GUIDE

Preparing your child for fun and success at Safari Camp September-May

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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.

PRE-CAMP COMMUNICATION

After you complete registration, you will receive a confirmation email with receipt. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please check your SPAM folder or call 515.974.2550. The week before camp, you will receive an email with instructions.

SEESAW

We will be using the Seesaw App for communication with parents during camp days. The week of 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, snow gear on snowy days and short sleeves and pants on hot days.
- **Labels:** Please label your camper's belongings. Any unclaimed items after camp will be turned into the lost and found at Zoo Admissions. Lost and found items are generally kept for 1 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.
- **Change of clothes:** Though not required, we always appreciate you sending a spare set of clothes in campers' backpacks in case of accidents/spills.
- **Backpack:** Please send your camper with a bag or backpack each day with a change of clothes and to help bring home materials from camp.

LUNCHES & SNACKS

Lunch is not provided. All campers enrolled in camp will need to bring a sack lunch.

Campers will receive a morning and an afternoon snack each day that is included as a part of camp registration. Snacks might include items such as: Veggie Straws, pretzels, fruit snacks, or frozen treats. Snack items are tentative and subject to change 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 a health concern has been discussed with camp staff prior to the start of camp or during morning drop-off.

****Camp items are nut free (e.g., snacks, craft materials, substrates); 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 camper (including rescue inhalers and EpiPens), you must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Morning/evening dose of medications should be given before or after your camper 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 camper's name and in its original bottle. Adults 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 camper'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 a.m. 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 p.m. Please honor our pick-up times.

LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY PICK-UP

If you are arriving late for (after 9:00 a.m.), please be advised that Zoo Admissions does not open until 10:00 a.m. Labor Day-Memorial Day. If you arrive between 9:00-10:00 a.m., 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 a.m., Zoo Admissions staff can assist you.

Families who would like to pick up their camper early from day camps (prior to 3:30 p.m.) 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.

BEFORE/AFTER CARE

Before and After Care are not available for School Year Safari camps including Winter Safari, Spring Safari and School's Out Safari.

LATE FEES

If you know in advance that you will be late to pick up your camper, please let us know by calling the camp office at 515.974.2550. Camp ends at 4:00 p.m., and check-out ends at 4:15 p.m.

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

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 two instructors. Groups may also be assisted by youth volunteers (Zoo Crew) and floater staff. Zoo Crew volunteers are teens trained in a variety of Zoo programs. These volunteers serve as an extra pair of eyes and hands and are always under the supervision of Zoo staff.

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 camper 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 expectation 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 camper for camp, you will be asked for names to list as authorized to pick-up. We will not release a camper 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 at 515.974.2550 or during check-in.

SAFETY POLICIES: RESTROOM POLICY

Campers 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.



School Year Safari Camps

DROP-OFF & PICK-UP LOCATIONS

Drop-Off Period	Pick-Up Period
8:45-9:00 a.m.	4:00-4:15 p.m.

