



# WINTER/SPRING SAFARI PARENT GUIDE

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

[Drop-Off & Pick-Up Times, Locations & Map](#) | [Drop-off/Pick-up](#) | [Late Arrivals/Early Pick-up](#) | [Clothing](#) | [Seesaw](#) | [Lunches/Snacks/Medication](#) | [Before & After Care/Late Fees](#) | [Age Groups](#) | [Camp Staff & Expectations](#)

## 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 main Education line at 515-974-2550.

## 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 will be using the app Seesaw 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 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 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 child with a bag or backpack each day with a change of clothes and to help bring home materials from camp.

## LUNCH AND SNACKS

## **Lunch**

Lunch is not provided. All campers must bring a sack lunch from home. Refrigeration can be provided upon request by the adult.

## **Snack**

Snacks are provided each morning and afternoon. The staff will choose between veggie straws and pretzels depending on what is in stock that day. Campers are welcome to bring alternative snacks or additional snacks if desired.

Our snack choices have been selected for their allergy friendly ingredients. If your child has a gluten intolerance, we will provide a gluten free pretzel option. If your child is not able to have the selected snack choice for another allergy or dietary restriction, please let us know in the Camper Medical Form on [CampBrain](#).

## **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. 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 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.

*Please note, Zoo admission hours are 10 A.M.-3:30 P.M. 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.*

## **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.

## **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**

It is important to us that your child receives the best experience. Age groups are designated so that camp activities and can be best tailored for participants' success and enjoyment.

Your child **MUST** be potty-trained to be a part of the camp.

## **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 counselors. 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 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.



# Winter/Spring Safari Camp

## 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

