



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.

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 Wednesday 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 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, 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.

CAMP T-SHIRTS

Leftover Summer Safari t-shirts are available for purchase for \$8. **T-shirts must be purchased prior to the start of camp.** Four designs are available. PLEASE NOTE: Okapi is only available in youth medium and adult small, Red Panda is only available in youth small



Tortoise

Red Panda

Okapi

Cassowary

LUNCHES & SNACKS

Winter and Spring Safari Camps will receive a morning and an afternoon snack each day (included as a part of camp registration). Snacks might include items such as: bananas, apples, Goldfish crackers, popcorn, pretzels, fruit snacks, animal crackers, raisins, or carrot sticks (these items are tentative, subject to change and vary from day to day).

Campers may bring a snack from home in place of a Zoo 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 first morning drop-off.

Children enrolled in camp will need to either bring a sack lunch or purchase a Zoo lunch. Please note, that refrigeration for lunches will not be provided. Although we do not prohibit nuts from camp, due to the high prevalence of nut allergies/sensitivities, we ask that you please consider sending nut-free lunches with your child.

****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), we ask that you please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Please give all medications to your child's camp instructor at check-in and advise whether the medication should be returned at the end of each day or stay at the Zoo for the duration of camp.
- The adult dropping off your child on the first day of camp will be asked to sign a release form that authorizes camp staff to hold on to and provide medication to your child (required by law).
- 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 are unable to accept damaged/expired medications or loose medicine in unmarked packaging.

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

LATE ARRIVALS & EARLY PICK-UP

If you are arriving late for (after 9:00), please be advised that Zoo Admissions does not open until 10:00 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) 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

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 & GROUP REQUESTS

It is important to us that your child receives the best experience. Camp groups are split for camp instructors can tailor camp activities and learning opportunities in a way that is successful for the designated age group. As such, we hope that you will help us by honoring our age groups.

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

Occasionally age groups will split into small groups for activities. You can request that your child be grouped with another camper during the online registration process or by emailing camps@blankparkzoo.org. Although we make every effort to accommodate grouping preferences, please understand that group requests are never guaranteed.

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 a teaching team of 2-5 instructors. Groups may also be assisted by youth volunteers (Zoo Crew). 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.

SAFETY POLICIES: 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

