



Audubon Summer Camp

Frequently Asked Questions

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General Camp Information

What will my child do all day at Zoo Camp?

Zoo Camp is a fun and nature-filled adventure! Your child will be introduced to the world of animals and science through hands-on experiences, zoo-themed investigations, and up-close animal encounters. Zoo Camp programs are designed specifically for each age group and include thematic games, art activities, scientific explorations, and camp songs.

Grown-ups will receive a daily flyer from their camper at dismissal summarizing which exhibits we visited, which animals we met, and some questions to prompt your camper's sharing and storytelling about their day at camp.

Who is this camp for?

Zoo Camp is perfect for children ages 4-10 years who are interested in animals, the great outdoors, and science. Audubon offers a wide variety of tactile and immersive experiences that encourage children to play, explore, and protect wildlife and wild places.

Is Zoo Camp inclusive? Does Audubon offer accommodations for campers with special needs?

Audubon Nature Institute aims to accommodate all interested children in our Zoo Summer Camp experience. Our camp is a traditional camp (not specialized for specific exceptionalities), and we welcome all children to join in our explorations of nature.

Audubon Zoo's Summer Camp is very active and engages campers in a variety of activities with quick transitions and sensory changes throughout the day. All campers are expected to follow directions, adhere to safety rules, and behave according to the Summer Camp code of conduct.

Our team strives to accommodate every child. Please provide us with the information and tools necessary to give your child the best possible experience at camp prior to your child's first day of camp. Please contact zoedadmin@auduboninstitute.org to begin discussing what your child needs to have a successful camp experience.

How much interaction do campers have with animals?

Each day, campers will experience an up-close encounter with a Zoo animal. This daily special experience might include meeting one of our Education Ambassador animals in their group's classroom, seeing an exhibit animal during a feeding, or watching an enrichment or training sessions with a keeper.

What is the counselor to camper ratio?

The counselor to camper ratio varies with age and registration. Our younger camp groups have one counselor to every six campers, and our older camp groups have one counselor to eight campers.

Is there nap time?

Zoo Camp provides daily quiet time for all campers during camp weeks designed for the four to six-year age group. Camp weeks designed for older children will offer time for quieter activities so that campers can some have “down” time during the day.

Can I stay with my camper during the day? May I eat lunch with my camper?

For the safety of all campers, we do not allow anyone who is not a camp staff member or approved student support specialists to spend time with the camp group. This includes parents and care givers.

Do you provide a snack?

Yes, Zoo Camp will provide a daily snack for each camper. We will also have water readily available to refill camper water bottles throughout the day.

- If your camper has dietary restrictions, please notify Audubon’s staff by emailing zooedadmin@auduboninstitute.org.
- Camper’s with special dietary requirements should provide their own daily snacks.

Should I pack a lunch for my camper?

Yes. All campers must come to camp with their own lunch every day. Audubon will provide campers with snacks and plenty of water refills.

- If your child has special dietary needs, please notify Audubon’s Camp staff by emailing zooedadmin@auduboninstitute.org.
- Please send your camper to Zoo Camp with a lunch each day.
- Many children have allergies to different types of nuts and if your child’s group has a child with a nut allergy, we will ask the entire group to provide their campers with nut-free foods.
- Sharing of lunch items is not permitted except among siblings. Refrigeration or microwave access is not available.
- Please attempt to pack lunches in environmentally-friendly containers.

What if my child forgets their lunch?

If a child does not have their lunch, instructors will contact the camper's grown-ups to come back to the Zoo to deliver a lunch to the child. Please attempt to pack lunches in environmentally-friendly containers.

Will my camper be outside all day?

No. Zoo Camp includes a variety of experiences that include both indoor and outdoor activities. During inclement weather, outdoor activities may be modified for safety. Each group has its own designated classroom for indoor activities.

- Sunscreen: Please make sure your camper is wearing sunscreen upon arrival at camp and that they have additional sunscreen in their bag. Campers will be asked to reapply sunscreen throughout the day and staff will not assist in applying sunscreen directly.
- Hydration: We require that you send your camper to the Zoo with a full, reusable water bottle that can be refilled throughout the day.

What should my child wear and bring to camp?

On the first day of camp, your child will be given special Zoo Camp t-shirts. We require campers to wear the camp shirt every day of camp. It increases visibility while in the zoo. Extra shirts can be purchased for \$10 when you register.

- Campers should dress appropriately for the weather. Camp groups will go outside rain or shine, so rain gear is occasionally required. Grown-ups should monitor weather forecasts and pack for their camper accordingly.
- For younger campers:
 - Make sure clothing is easy for the child to remove and replace for independent bathroom use. Camp staff cannot assist campers in the restroom.
 - Provide a change of clothes for emergencies.
- Closed-toed shoes are required for your child's safety. A hat is recommended as a physical sun barrier for camper's heads and faces. Zoo Camp hats are available for purchase for \$8 each during registration.
- Each camper must have their own nut-free snack and lunch and a refillable water bottle labeled with the camper's name.
- Please send your camper to the Zoo with sunscreen already applied. Pack additional sunscreen in your camper's bag so they can reapply as necessary throughout the day. Staff will not assist campers with applying sunscreen directly.

Payment and registration

When will registration open?

Zoo Camp registration for the general public will open on Monday, March 15.

Do you offer any discounts?

Audubon Members and employees receive discounts on all Audubon Camps. To receive this discount, your Audubon Membership must be current during the time of the camp event, not just valid at the time of purchase.

Refunds are not available, except in the case of an Audubon cancellation. To become a member, visit www.AudubonInstitute.org anytime or call (504) 861-5105 during operating hours Monday through Friday. We do not offer sibling or package discounts.

What is your cancellation policy?

- Audubon Summer Camp registrations are non-refundable and non-transferrable.
 - Should you cancel or miss your reserved week of Audubon Summer Camp, please consider your payment a donation to support Audubon Nature Institute's mission.
 - Your camp registration reserves a spot for your child to attend one specific week of camp. If your child is unable to attend all five days camp, payment for the full week is still required. We do not offer daily registration rates.
- If your week of camp is canceled fully or partially by Audubon Nature Institute due to extreme weather, COVID-19 exposure, or other circumstances beyond Audubon's control, Audubon will strive to reschedule your camp reservation if possible. If rescheduling is not possible, a pro-rated refund for camp days missed will be provided.
 - Extreme weather conditions include, but are not limited to, excessive hot or cold temperatures, severe weather, or dangerous driving conditions.
- If your child is dismissed from the program due to behavioral issues, you will not be granted a refund, and your child will not be allowed to return to camp.
- Pro-rated refunds for COVID-19 related cancellations:

- If a child must miss one or more days of camp due to COVID-19 symptoms or exposure, the camper's family will receive a refund for the pro-rated cost of the missed days of camp.
- If there is a positive COVID-19 exposure within the camp group, the entire group will be sent home to quarantine. Each affected camper family will be refunded the pro-rated cost of the missed days of camp.
- Please refer to the Audubon Summer Camper COVID-19 policy in the Family Manual for additional information regarding camper symptom screening and COVID-related camp cancellations/refunds.

How do I know if my spot is confirmed?

Upon completion of the online registration process, you will receive an electronic confirmation via email once your payment has been processed.

Two weeks prior to your child's camp experience, you will receive an email with important information about the Zoo Camp experience, camp group assignments, safety procedures, and schedules from zoedadmin@auduboninstitute.org.

What happens if I am placed on the waitlist?

Campers on the waitlist are not guaranteed a spot in their selected camp session. Waitlisted campers are moved into camp vacancies, if they open, based on their order on the waitlist.

If a camp spot becomes available, the camper who is first in the waitlist queue for that week will be contacted by Audubon's staff with an offer for the available spot. If that camper declines the spot, staff will move down the queue accordingly until the vacancy is filled.

Can I sign my camper up for multiple weeks?

Yes! Each age group has three weeks of unique camp curriculum available. Register your child for one, two, or all three weeks of Summer Camp at Audubon Zoo.

Why can't my first grader attend camp with my fifth grader?

For the benefit of your child and other campers, children will only be allowed in groups that match their designated age range. There are no exceptions. Camp activities and experiences are designed to match each age group's grade and developmental benchmarks.