We are so excited to spend the summer with you! Please review the information in this packet with your camper before attending the program. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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RESERVATION POLICIES

• Full payment is due at time of making reservation.

• Zoo programs are rain or shine. However, programs may be cancelled due to severe weather. If a program must be cancelled due to severe weather, the Zoo will notify registrants of the cancellation prior to program start time. Registrants must notify all other participants they registered. If the entire camp is cancelled, a full refund will be issued, or registrant may reschedule if space is available. Programs cancelled by Kansas City Zoo due to weather will be eligible for refunds.

• Programs may be cancelled due to low registration. If the Kansas City Zoo cancels a program due to low enrollment, the Zoo will notify registrants of the cancellation prior to program start time. Registrants must notify all other participants they registered. If this happens, a full refund will be issued, or registrant may reschedule. Programs cancelled by the Kansas City Zoo due to low attendance will be eligible for refunds.

• A “no-show” is when a registrant does not appear for their scheduled program and did not notify the Kansas City Zoo Education Department. Refunds will not be issued for no-shows or early departure from program.

• Date changes that occur less than 2 weeks prior to original scheduled program will incur a $5 processing fee per reservation. Date changes are subject to program availability.

• Cancellations made more than 2 weeks prior to the program will receive a refund of 75% of the program fee. Cancellation requests received less than 2 weeks prior to the program start date will not receive a refund.
CAMP INFORMATION

Camp Location & Times All camp programming takes place within the Kansas City Zoo campus. The Education Department is based in the Zoo Learning Center located to the right of the Zoo entrance. 4-Day Camps are available Monday-Thursday on select weeks between June and August. Single Day camps are available on select Fridays between June and August, requiring separate registration from the 4-Day camps. All camp runs 8:30am-3:30pm. Please note that you child will be encountering a different group of children and instructors from those in their 4-Day camp should you choose to register for the Friday Single Day Camp.

Morning Drop Off Check-in takes place curbside in the upper portion of the Cheetah parking lot. Please remain in the car. Staff will approach each car where verbal check ins and wellness checks will occur. Arrive between 8:30am and 9:00am each day to check in your camper. First day check-in will also include registration confirmation and verification of allergies and special needs. A staff member will escort the camper to the Greeting Grass.

Identification Cards On the first day of camp you will receive two Identification Cards. These cards have your camper's name and a unique code. We cannot release a camper to someone without one of these cards or the unique code found on them. If the person picking up does not have the identification card or the unique code, we will require a Photo ID and will notify the parent/emergency contact for verification before the camper will be released.

Afternoon Pick Up Check-out takes place curbside in the upper portion of the Cheetah parking lot. Please remain in the car; staff will approach each car. Have your camper(s) Identification Card ready. Staff will escort campers from the Greeting Grass to the car. Arrive between 3:30pm and 4:00pm each day to sign out your camper. If your child has not been picked up by 4:00pm, you will be charged the $15 late fee. If early pick up is needed, please notify camp staff.

Instructors Our camp staff is selected based on many criteria. All camp staff have previous experience working with children and/or an educational background in science and/or education.

Dress For the safety of your child, masks* and camp shirts must be worn every day. Much of the day is spent outside, so make sure your camper is dressed for the weather! It can get extremely hot, so we recommend comfortable shorts or capri pants. Socks and closed-toe, closed-heel shoes are required. Sandals, flip flops, or Crocs are not allowed in most behind-the-scenes areas. If rain is in the forecast, send your child with a raincoat or poncho. Umbrellas are not allowed.

*We are monitoring local and CDC Covid guidelines and will make changes as updates are announced.
**Lunch** Send your camper with a Fridge-free lunch, NOT money. Campers will not be able to purchase food and refrigeration is not available. Please note that the Kansas City Zoo cannot ensure a gluten-free/nut-free environment due to the diets of the animals.

**Snacks** Send your camper with a 2 Fridge-free daily snacks packed separately from their lunch.

**Emergencies** If there is an emergency and you need to remove your camper early, please call the following numbers until you reach zoo staff:

- 816.595.1765 – Education Reservations
- 816.595.1767 – Camp Programs Supervisor
- 816.595.1234 – Zoo Switchboard

**What to bring** Fridge-free lunch, water bottle labelled with camper name, sunscreen*, hat, bug spray* [*Staff is not permitted to assist children with the application of any product, and campers are responsible for any items they bring to camp*]

**What NOT to bring** Money, jewelry, electronics, card games or collectables, fireworks, lighters, weapons, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, personal sports equipment, animals or other inappropriate items. These items will be confiscated, and parent/guardian will be notified by the Camp Programs Supervisor. Child could be sent home immediately and may not be allowed to return to camp.
2022 CAMP UPDATES

Please know that the safety and well-being of your family is our top priority. However, expect that social distancing, especially for younger campers, is difficult and that there will be times throughout the day despite our best efforts that your child will not be social distancing from staff or other campers. Furthermore, the public will be present while campers are on ground visiting the Zoo animals. Finally, campers may also be visiting with other Zoo professionals outside of camp staff.

General Guidelines To ensure a productive, safe and fun environment, the following general guidelines will be followed:
- **Masks are NOT Required But Strongly Recommended.**
- Daily wellness screening with questions will occur at drop off.
- Each Camp Class will have a designated classroom.

Sanitizing & Safety
- Campers and Staff will be directed to wash or sanitize hands frequently.
- Enhanced sanitization procedures will be in place: Daily disinfecting.
- Employees with a fever or who are feeling ill will not be allowed to work until they are well.
- If your child feels ill, we ask that they not come to camp.
  - Campers will not be allowed to attend or return to camp until they have been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medications for 72 hours.

Due to the ever-changing nature of this pandemic, this COVID policy is subject to change at any time. We are continuing to monitor CDC and local guidelines and will make changes as updates occur. Any changes will be communicated to registrants in a timely manner (as much as possible.)
BEHAVIOR POLICY

To ensure a productive, safe and fun environment, appropriate behavior is expected of full day camp participants. Please review the following expectations with your camper before the first day of camp.

- Respect Yourself
  - The zoo is open to the public - stay with your group at all times.
  - Listen to all directions given by camp staff.
  - Have fun!
- Respect Others
  - Keep your hands to yourself.
  - Use walking feet on all designated paths.
  - Follow all directions given by camp staff.
- Respect Animals and the Zoo
  - Use appropriate recycling and garbage receptacles.
  - Leave native animals, flowers and plants for others to enjoy.
  - Observe our animal friends – do not touch, tease, feed or disrupt their behavior.

The Kansas City Zoo has the right to remove a camper from camp at any time. Consequences for inappropriate behavior will be administered in the following sequence.*

3. Reset with Camp Supervisor – Separated from camp group.**
4. Phone Call Home – Camp Supervisor calls Primary Contact.**
5. Camper Dismissed – Camper must leave zoo premises with parent/guardian and will not be allowed to finish camp.**

*If a child’s actions are severe, steps may be skipped within this sequence.
**Consequences 3, 4, and 5 will be recorded within a written report. This document will be available upon request.

Note: There are no refunds when a child’s behavior requires he/she be sent home.
CAMP GOALS & OUTCOMES

The mission of the Kansas City Zoo Education Department is to positively change behavior by instilling in all people the desire and knowledge to respect and conserve wildlife and nature.

Kansas City Zoo strives to...
As a result, Campers will be able to...

1. Introduce Campers to the Animal Kingdom and Nature, in general.
   a. Visit/Tour the zoo.
   b. Engage in at least 1 outdoor game/activity (beyond tours) each day.
   c. Encounter an animal 1 on 1 and perhaps even touch it.
   d. Distinguish between exotic and native animals as well as wild vs domestic.

2. Promote Scientific Discovery
   a. Participate or observe at least 1 science-based experiment/activity.
   b. Use question-based discovery to come to a solution or explain a proposed situation.
   c. Engage in hands on activities throughout their stay.

3. Explore the Natural History of Animals.
   a. Identify the 4 Basic Needs of all animals.
   b. Name the general Classes/Groups of animals and give at least 1 characteristic.
   c. Define the word “adaptation,” discuss its importance, and give an example.
   d. Distinguish between Carnivore, Omnivore, and Herbivore.

4. Stress the importance of Ecosystems and Habitats.
   a. Define and identify different types of Habitats and at least 1 animal that live there.
   b. Explain how different forms and life can be connected.

5. Introduce campers to Animal-Based Career Fields.
   a. Encounter, interact or observe other zoo staff while attending at least 1 zoo show, animal chat, behind the scenes tour, or specialized activity.

6. Help Campers take an active role in the Stewardship of our Environment.
   a. Identify Environmental Concerns (habitat loss, global warming, etc.) and list at least 2 ways they can take an active role to minimize the effects (recycling, reducing carbon footprint, etc.).
   b. Campers and staff will participate in recycling of materials such as aluminum cans, paper, cardboard, and plastic.
7. Provide Opportunities that stimulate Social Growth and Self-Esteem.
   a. Participate in get-to-know-you games.
   b. Engage in team-based games/activities.
   c. Provide positive comments and encouragement throughout team activities and camp in general.

*(Depending on the length/type of camp, campers will accomplish at least 1 outcome, if not more, from each goal)*

**Curriculum** The curriculum is designed to be age appropriate by Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Conservation Education Messages and Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Some activities may require more intense instruction and/or supervision based on age, developmental needs, or safety concerns. An activity of this nature may include:

**Animal Encounter (5+ years)**
Animal Ambassadors, accompanied by trained presenters, will visit the class for an up-close personal experience. At the discretion of the presenter, children may be allowed to touch these animals.

**Videos (5+ years)**
Videos may play during certain times of camp, before care or after care. All videos or movies shown are MPAA rated G or PG, and include, but are not limited to, Disney, National Geographic for Kids, and ZooLife™ with Jack Hanna.

**Behind the Scenes Tours (5+ years)**
Campers will be able to tour non-public areas of several designated animal exhibits. These tours will be led by animal department staff while campers are in these areas. Camp staff will also be present.

**Dissection (13-17 years)**
Campers may explore the world of animals through anatomy/biology lessons. Dissections of specimens may include the use of scalpels, tweezers, pins, etc. Activity will be conducted and supervised by camp staff.