Zoo Camp
Parent/Guardian Camp Handbook

Welcome to Zoo Camp

Bergen County Zoo Camp provides a safe environment for your children to learn about wildlife, conservation, and nature to become better environmental stewards. Campers will have daily tours of the zoo and animal ambassador meet and greets. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the education department at 201-634-3108.

Rules and Protocols
These rules are implemented to ensure the safety of all program participants. Program participants that violate these rules may be dismissed from camp as the Camp Director sees fit. Dismissals are non-refundable.

1. Participants may not bring fireworks, firearms, matches, knives, weapons, or pets to the zoo.
2. Participants are not permitted to leave the camp without being signed-out by a parent/guardian or authorized caregiver. The Director must be informed of early pick-ups during sign-in.
3. Participants, staff, and volunteers are not permitted to smoke, chew tobacco, or vape.
4. The camp staff must be made aware of any allergies or conditions that may require medication. All medications must be in their original containers with the labels still intact and handed to staff during program sign-in.
5. There is a zero tolerance policy for physical or emotional abuse.
6. Chewing gum is not permitted as it can become a choking hazard for participants.
7. Handheld gaming devices and electronics are not permitted during camp.
8. Camp staff is not responsible for damaged, lost, or personal items. Please do not send valuable or cherished items with your child to camp.

Drop Off
Camp runs Monday through Friday from 9 am –1pm (12pm for Wolf Pups), rain or shine, and takes place both outdoors and indoors. We will attempt to keep children outdoors as much as possible. On days when the weather is poor, we will utilize the education center. Please meet at the front entrance to the zoo (near Parking Lot 1) by 9:00am each morning. If your child will be late to or absent from camp, please call 201-634-3125. On the first day of camp, you will meet your child's counselor and receive a Zoo Camp T-shirt and nametag. For their safety, children are required to wear their camp shirts **every day of camp**. If a camper has medications listed on their health forms, the medication must be shown to the camp counselor at check in. All campers must have a completed health packet on file with the camp before they can be dropped off.

Pick Up
Summer Camp: At the end of the camp day, campers walk to the area behind the carousel. Parents should park in **Parking Lot # 3** (the lot behind the carousel) and meet their children under the trees behind the carousel.
Mini Camp: People approved to pick up campers can meet groups at the front of the zoo, in the same area as drop off.

To sign your child out, you will need to show Photo ID, **No child will be released to any adult who is not on your child's pickup form. Parents and guardians must be named on the check-out form.** If any

additions are needed to the original form, a new form may be submitted prior to your child's first day of camp or at drop off **by a parent or legal guardian**. Forms will not be accepted from anyone other than a legal guardian.

What Campers Should Bring

- Wear clothes appropriate for the weather, campers will go outside rain or shine
- Close-toed shoes
- Jackets/coats
- Reusable water bottle
- Snack
- Sunscreen

Camp Tips

- Label all your child's items
- Apply sunscreen and insect repellent before coming to camp (staff is not allowed to apply these items onto children)
- Pack an easy-to-carry snack as they may be eating in different spots around the zoo
- Check weather in the morning, pack sweatshirt or jacket if it will be a cooler or rainy day

Program Capacity

Registrations are accepted in the order in which they are received. After a program has reached maximum enrollment, registration will close. Wait lists will be created on a first come, first served basis; campers will be accepted if an opening should arise. Wait lists do not guarantee the enrollment of a camper(s).

Requirements

Participants must be a Bergen County Resident or a zoo member. Children must be signed up for the appropriate age group. If a camper is signed up for the wrong group, they will be removed from registration.

Behavioral Issues

We expect participants to follow the rules of Bergen County Zoo. Participants will be issued two warnings to allow for behavioral improvement. After the second warning, staff may choose to issue a time-out. When behavior becomes a group management or safety concern, staff will issue a time-out without a warning. The parent/guardian or caregiver picking up the participant will be informed of the situation by a staff member. If a participant's parent has been spoken to more than once throughout the duration of that specific program, and the behavior of the child has not improved, the participant will be removed from the program. Refunds will not be issued for behavioral dismissals.

Allergies

Bergen County Zoo is not a nut free facility. Seeds and nuts are fed to our animals throughout the zoo. Parents/guardians or caregivers of participants with nut allergies or sensitivities should be aware of this and take appropriate precautions.

Photo Release

The Bergen County Zoo takes photographs of participants throughout the duration of the program. Some of these photos will be utilized on the website, social media and/or in an array of marketing material. Be aware that registering for our camp gives the zoo permission to utilize your child's photos.

In general, participants in pictures are not identified. If you wish to exclude your child from photos, please contact the Camp Director.

Cancellations

In order to get a full refund, you must cancel three weeks prior to start of camp. Any cancellations later than three weeks in advance are not guaranteed a refund.

Bergen County Zoological Park

Parent/Guardian Agreement

I,_____, have read the handbook and agree to the information packet. I understand that there are some risks inherent to attending and I am willing to assume those risks on behalf of my child, _____(camper first and last name). I do hereby waive, release and hold harmless the Bergen County Zoo its counselors, volunteers, and employees for any injury that may be suffered by my child in the normal course of participation in activities.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Bergen County Zoological Park

Zoo Camper Release Form

(Not required for Wolf Pups)

Camper Name: _____

- The camper's parent/guardian is responsible for checking the child in each morning with zoo camp staff
- The Bergen County Zoo will only release campers to adults 18 years of age or older listed below regardless of their relationship to child. Please list all parents, guardians, relatives, or friends that are permitted to pick up your child.
- It is implied that the adults listed on this form may be contacted by the camp while the camper is in the care of camp, and may be contacted if the camper needs to be picked up during the course of the camp day (due to behavior, illness/injury, or at the end of the day).
- For your child's safety, presentation of a valid driver's license will be required at pick up.

I authorize the following adults to pick up my camper at the end of the camp day (1pm), or as needed due to illness/injury or behavioral concerns. The individuals listed have been informed by me that they may be contacted, and they need to produce a valid driver's license as proof of identification.

Name	Relationship to Camper	Cell Phone Number

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone number: _____