

NEW this Year!

- ✓ **Before and after care**
- ✓ **Camp for 13-16 year olds**
- ✓ **Open House Saturday**
- ✓ **Waitlist now available**
- ✓ **Free shirt for early immunization records***

**See policies for details*



Cancellations

Due to the high demand for camp spaces, all sales are considered final. Patrons who provide a written notice of cancellation to education@houstonzoo.org **on or before May 1st will receive a 50% refund of their camp registration fees.** No refunds will be issued after this date, including participants who miss all or partial programs due to illness. **Before/after-care fees and shirt purchases are not refundable.**

The Houston Zoo reserves the right to cancel any program due to minimum enrollment, inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances, in which case a full refund will be issued. Cancellations are official upon receipt of confirmation from the Houston Zoo.

Rescheduling

There will be a rescheduling fee of \$25 per camper per topic or date change. Requests must be made in writing to education@houstonzoo.org. Changes are subject to availability. Camp registration is not transferrable between campers.

2017 Summer Camp Zoofari Policies and Information

NEW and IMPROVED! *You asked and we listened!*

Before and after care is available. Both begin 1 ¼ hour before and/or after camp. Cost is \$50/week for before care, \$60/week for after care or \$100/week for both before and after care. We will not be able to prorate or offer refunds on days not used.

To encourage submitting immunization records early and help us reduce administrative costs, you will receive one additional t-shirt per camper for immunization records submitted before May 5 at noon.

Speaking of Open Houses, they will be held on the dates and times below. You only need to attend one. Plan to be here about 30 minutes to view a brief presentation on the changes this year and have any questions asked.

Camp Open House Dates

May 11 or 16 from 5-7PM

May 20 from 9-11AM

Emergency Contacts and Authorized Individuals

If you are the parent/guardian of the camper and plan to pick up your child every day, you will still need to list your name in the emergency contact section when registering. If you are not picking up your child, you will need to add all those approved to pick up your child in the emergency contact section. If you're not sure who will be picking up your child daily, you will have the opportunity to include additional names on the pickup list when you drop off your camper each day. For the safety of your camper, this policy will be followed to ensure no unauthorized individuals try to remove your camper from Camp Zoofari.

Photo Identification and Sign-In/Out

To comply with State of Texas regulations and for the safety and protection of campers, we require a photo ID (name and photo BOTH on a plastic printed card i.e. driver's license, school ID, credit card w/ photo, work ID, or passport) presented to the camp teacher when signing your child out at the end of the day. **This procedure will occur every day, every time you pick up your camper.** If you forget your identification in your vehicle, you will be asked to retrieve your ID before you can sign your camper out. For the safety of our campers, there are NO exceptions to this policy and we ask that you assist us in making check-out safe and seamless by carrying your ID at all times and passing this information along to anyone approved by you to pick up your camper. Thank you for your cooperation!

Sign-in and out will take place at Gate 8 for ALL campers. You may park in the main parking lot or the old golf course parking lot across the street. Unauthorized vehicles parking in the handicapped spaces or loading zones in front of Gate 8 may be ticketed. The Houston Zoo is NOT responsible for paying fines received.

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Immunizations (or Affidavits of Exemption)

Camp Zoofari is licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services and requires immunization records/affidavits of exemption for all campers. All parents/guardians will be required to acknowledge our policy of providing an immunization record or affidavit of exemption from immunizations at the time of purchase of camp. You will not be able to advance any further in the check-out process until you click the acknowledgement box.

All campers must have updated documents on record each year in order to attend camp. No exceptions will be made for this policy. If a record or affidavit is not received by/on the first day of camp, the camper will not be permitted to participate. If you will be submitting an affidavit, you can find more information at <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/>

You can submit your immunization records/affidavits in the following manners:

1. Email: education@houstonzoo.org
2. Fax: 713-533-6783
You will receive one free additional t-shirt per camper if you submit immunization by May 5 at noon.
3. Bring them with you to Camp Open House or on the first day of camp.

No Cell Phone Policy at Camp Zoofari

Camp Zoofari is a high-energy experience filled with fun, interactive activities. We want your child to enjoy their experience connecting to nature and wildlife so we ask you to please refrain from sending your child to camp with a cell phone. If you need to speak with your child during camp hours, please call our Education Office at 713-533-6500. We will be happy to have your child speak with you. Should a situation arise at camp in which your child needs to speak with you or you need to be notified of a concern regarding your child such as an illness, we will contact you using the emergency contact information you provided. On Monday morning, please check your child's roster to verify the emergency contact information provided during registration is correct.

What are the camp rules?

1. Listen and follow instructions
2. Participate in camp activities
3. Respect others
4. Respect property
5. Have fun!

Should a camper forget the camp rules, one of our highly trained staff will remind them of both the camp rules and the importance of each in order to make the camp day successful for all campers. If necessary, a phone call to the parents will be made to help find a solution. In the event improvement is not realized, a parent/guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up the camper. A return to camp the following day will be at our discretion. Refunds are not provided for campers sent home for failing to follow the rules.



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Parking

The free parking lots around Houston Zoo are owned and managed by the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department and have no affiliation with Houston Zoo. We are unable to reserve spaces for our camp participants. We understand parking can be difficult, especially in the afternoon when the Zoo is crowded. However, for the safety of our camp participants and to comply with State of Texas regulations, we require students to be physically signed in and out of their camp groups each day. Please do not park in the handicapped spaces or loading zones along the curb unless you have a permit, as you may be ticketed or towed. Houston Zoo is not responsible for fines received.

Lunch/Snacks

Camp Zoofari is a “high energy” activity, so campers should eat a hearty breakfast before arrival. Bagged snacks (cookies or crackers) are provide in the morning and afternoon. Water is also provided throughout the day. We recommend bringing a reusable water bottle.

All full-day campers must bring a lunch daily. Due to safety concerns, glass containers are prohibited. **There is not a microwave available for use.** Due to the heat and humidity of Texas summers some items are not recommended. Please pack clear liquids or juices only for drinking. Please see lunch recommendations below.

Recommended	Not Recommended	Not allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Sandwich or “Lunchable”✓ Whole fruit✓ Vegetables✓ Reusable containers✓ Water or Sport Drinks✓ Clear fruit juice✓ Cereal bars✓ String cheese	<ul style="list-style-type: none">× Yogurt and “Gogurt”× Milk× Difficult to open packages× Soda× Smoothies× Sushi× Mayonnaise-based salads× Thick fruit or vegetable juice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">× Glass containers× Food that must be heated× Food for other campers

Can I bring snacks for the group?

Due to dietary restrictions of participants, please do not bring snacks (such as cupcakes) for your child’s class as we are unable to allow these to be shared with the group.

Allergies

If your child has food allergies, please include this information on the registration form. We are not able to offer alternative snacks. You may provide a small snack for your own child if allergies are a concern.



2017 Summer Camp Zoofari Policies and Information

New Waitlist Policy! *You asked and we listened!*

The waitlist is not the same as registration. Once a camp has filled, a waitlist will open. You are welcome to register for a waitlist, but this does not guarantee you will have a spot in a camp.

You will be notified by email if a waitlist spot opens and you will have 24 hours to respond. If you do not complete a registration for the waitlisted camp within 24 hours, the waitlist spot is forfeited, and the next person on the list will be contacted. If you are not notified by email, you are not registered for a camp.

In the event enough waitlist spots are requested to allow us to add another camp session, all waitlists will be contacted and given 24 hours to register before we open the camp to additional outside registrants. If you have two campers be sure they both are either on the waitlist or registered, if you want them attending the same camp. All waitlists will be closed or converted to new camp sessions by May 5.

My child needs to take medication; how should I arrange for this?

The Houston Zoo does NOT administer medication to children, nor does it allow campers to self-medicate and does not permit medication (OTC or prescription) at camp with the exception of emergency medications (inhalers, epi-pens, etc.). Please consult a physician so medication can be administered outside of camp. To ensure a positive experience for all campers, it is IMPERATIVE that you notify us of any special needs or medical conditions your child may have. We will accommodate these needs to the best of our ability.

Friends or Relatives in Camp?

Requests to pair relatives or friends must be made in writing via email to education@houstonzoo.org at least one week in advance to the camp start date. Children must be the same age and registered for the same camp. Requests are not guaranteed; no exceptions will be made to class sizes. Roster changes will NOT be made on Monday morning.

Can I stay with my child in camp?

Camp Zoofari is a program designed for children who can remain in a group setting without parental involvement.

See what your campers will learn each day on our Parent Page. Visit the site: Visit the www.houstonzoo.org/campparent

May I enroll my child in a camp for an older age group?

Age requirements are not negotiable and are strictly enforced. Campers must fall within the specified age category on the first day of the camp session they are attending.

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How are campers supervised?

Campers are supervised at all times and are escorted on restroom breaks. Teacher to camper ratios are 1:8.

Can I bring a backpack?

Yes, cubbies are available for children to store their backpacks, or other items they don't want to carry in the Zoo. **Please do not bring any personal electronics, such as tablets or gaming systems as these items could be lost.** Houston Zoo is not responsible for any personal electronic devices brought.

Does my child need to wear their camp shirt every day?

Yes, a camp t-shirt must be worn each day of Camp Zoofari. Each camper receives one t-shirt with each week of camp purchased. Additional t-shirts may be purchased for \$10 apiece. Sizes are Youth XS (2-4), S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16), and Adult S, M, and L. If you are unsure of what size to order, please order a size larger to allow room for your camper to grow. Returning campers may wear either this year's or last year's orange shirt.

What are the camp hours?

Full day camps are available for children ages 4-12 and run from 9 am-4 pm. Half day camps are available for children ages 4-5 only and run from 9 am-12 pm.

Gate 8 camp entrance opens 15 minutes before the start of the program and is locked 15 minutes after camp begins.

Before care drop off is from 7:45-8:15am and after-care pick up is from 4:45-5:15pm. We will be conducting on-grounds activities with the early/late campers so Gate 8 will not be staffed outside these hours. There is no after-care for half-day camps. You must still sign in/out your camper with a photo ID. Campers not picked up by 4:30 pm will be charged for after/care for the day at \$12.

Gate 8 Access Hours

Camp Type	Early Drop Off (\$10)	Camp Registration	Camp Pick Up	Late Pick Up (\$12)
AM Half-day	7:45-8:15	8:45-9:15	11:45-12:15	Not Available
Full Day	7:45-8:15	8:45-9:15	3:45-4:15	4:45-5:15

Half-day campers not picked up by 12:15pm will be charged a fee of \$3 per minute per child.

Arriving Late? Need to Leave Early?

Gate 8 will only be open the hours above. If you are arriving to pick up or drop off your child outside of these times, use the Zoo's main entrance. Once inside the Zoo, you must check your child in or out with staff in the Brown Education Center (BEC) office.