

Zoo Summer Camp Important Information

FULL DAY (9 to 3) Little Artists – Big Pictures at the Zoo

Whether this is your first summer at Zoo Camp or you have been coming to Zoo Camp since Kindergarten, please read and complete the paperwork so we are all prepared for a week of fun at the San Diego Zoo.

We thank you for choosing the San Diego Zoo's Summer Camp as part of your child's summer vacation experience. Our program offers children opportunities to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills, cooperation, and have up-close encounters with animals that connect kids to wildlife and conservation. Best of all, they have so much fun doing it--they forget they're learning!

Drop-off and pick-up your Zoo Campers

MONDAY MORNING please **park your car** and walk with your child to the Greeting Grass area so you can meet your child's teacher and turn in the enclosed **two-sided release form (please complete ahead of time)**. **Allow extra time** for check-in on the first day of class. Check in at the appropriate grade or program sign at the Greeting Grass area, located at the west side of the main parking lot (indicated on the enclosed map).

MONDAY AFTERNOON and TUESDAY - FRIDAY, there are two ways to drop off and pick up:

*Option #1: You can stay in your car and use our **express drop-off and pick-up service**. To use this service, drive into the **Express Lane** indicated by the arrows on the map. **You must stay behind the wheel of your car the entire time**. A staff person will come to the car and escort your child(ren) to or from the Greeting Grass and help them into the car.*

(Please do not get out of your car – not to put on your child's shoes, sunscreen, buckle them into the car seat, open the back hatch, etc. **If for any reason you need to get out of the car, you must park in a legal, marked spot, not in the Express Lane.**)



For pick up time, please **write the name(s) of the child or children you are picking up on the provided form** and display it on your car dashboard. This method assures both safety and efficiency.

We agree that your child's safety is of the utmost importance. There may be times that we will direct you to pull forward in the Express Lane to help us with traffic flow, especially if you have many campers, or kids who need help with seatbelts. Your patience and cooperation is essential to the success of this system.

*Option #2: If you want to personally escort your child to or from the Greeting Grass or **if you need to get out of your car for any reason, you must park your car in a legal, marked space**. (Be aware that parking can be difficult in the afternoons during the busy summer season.)*

Set Your Watch

7:30-8:45 a.m. Extended Day (XD) Program morning hours of operation. If you registered for this option, please park your car and bring your child to the XD classroom in the Otto Center anytime during these hours. See Drop-off/ Pick up Map for location of Otto Center.

8:45-9:00 a.m. You may drop off your camper at 8:45 at the Greeting Grass, 15 minutes before Zoo Camp begins. **No supervision is provided in the Greeting Grass area before 8:45 a.m.**

9:00 a.m. Zoo Camp start time. If you arrive late, please come to the Otto Center and the Education staff will take your child to his/her class. Please be on time, lots of activities take place out in the Zoo and we don't want your camper to miss out on the fun.

3:00 p.m. Zoo Camp ends. Pick-up time at the Greeting Grass **ends promptly at 3:15. If any child is left beyond the 15-minute grace period, there is a late fee of \$17 PER CHILD**. You will need to go to the Education Department at the Otto Center to pick up your child (See drop off/ pick up map for location).

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3:15-5:30 p.m. Extended Day Program afternoon hours of operation. **For each child left beyond the 15-minute grace period, a late fee of \$17 PER CHILD will be charged for each 15-minute period, or portion thereof.** For the comfort of your child(ren), please contact us at 619-231-1515 ext 4122 if you are going to be late.

What to Bring

Light morning snack: Not too much! Snack break is about fifteen minutes. We provide cups of water (bottled) at snack time only.

Packed lunch: Make it easy to carry--backpacks or fanny packs are best. **No buying lunch at the Zoo.**

Sun gear: Be sun smart! Remember sunscreen, hats or visors, and water bottles for hydration during the day.

Comfortable shoes and play clothes: We might get dirty having fun.

Cameras (optional): They're great for capturing memories but are easily left behind. Write your child's name or put a return address label on the camera. Inform your child it is his/her responsibility to keep track of the camera.

Buying Snacks on Buy Day

One day each week (see schedule below) campers will be allowed to buy a snack from a Zoo snack stand. Items include--but are not limited to--ice cream, cookies, nachos, pretzels, and sodas. **Items are priced between \$4 and \$5.** If you would like your child to participate, **please send no more than \$5. Purchase of snack items is optional** and you may send a snack item with your child instead, as you would on all other camp days. **Please put the money in an envelope with you child's name and grade level written on it and ask him/her to leave it in their bag or backpack.** This helps to reduce the chance of lost money.

| Grade | Buy Day |
|----------------|----------------|
| K | Tuesday |
| 1 | Thursday |
| 2 | Thursday |
| 3 | Wednesday |
| 4 | Wednesday |
| 5 | Tuesday |
| 6/7 | Friday |
| Little Artists | Friday |



On the Day We Buy Snacks, We Get Souvenirs

Everyone loves getting a Zoo souvenir! We have created a special Camp Store where campers can shop using our camp currency of Zoo Bucks. **Do NOT send any money with your camper for the souvenirs.** These items are our gifts to your kids. Each camper will redeem his or her Zoo Bucks for an **exclusive Zoo camp T-shirt** and **one small item of his/her choice.** Please do not send any money for additional souvenirs. We will not go into the shops.

Note: If you wish to buy more souvenirs, please plan on shopping with your camper after camp in the Zoo's main gift shops. If you are not a Zoo member, go to the Guest Relations Window to get a shopping pass (credit card deposit required) that allows you admission to the gift shops located near the Zoo exit.



Bringing the Fun Home to the Entire Family

You can become involved in your child's Zoo Summer Camp Adventure through family activities in the evening. Every child will be given a home-connector at the end of each day. These are fun discussions and projects for the whole family to do. The home-connectors may reinforce a concept we've covered, or prepare your child for something coming up. We encourage your participation! We will also be sending home a survey on some weeks and we look forward to your feedback.

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Since Zoo Camp is not a parent participation program, parents are not able to tag along in camp. You are welcome to visit the Zoo during your child's day at Zoo Camp by purchasing an admission ticket or using your membership card. For family fun, check out our parent participation programs such as Safari Sleepovers, KinderNights, or Kids' Safari.