



Summer Zoo Camp Information Guide

Thank you for your interest in the Lehigh Valley Zoo summer camps! All week long, campers will learn about animals and nature in a fun, interactive manner. Camps may include ambassador animal encounters, learning about caring for zoo animals, zoo tours, nature hikes, creek studies, crafts, games, and other exciting activities! Below is a review of the zoo's policies and frequently asked questions to help you with your planning.

Zoo Camp Categories:

Pre-Zoo: Ages 4-5, camp runs 9:00am-12:00pm Monday-Friday (\$175/camper; \$150 zoo members)

Bugs: Ages 6-8, camp runs 8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday (\$275/camper; \$250 zoo members)

'Roos: Ages 9-11, camp runs 8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Friday (\$275/camper; \$250 zoo members)

Reservation Form:

Please complete the registration form with camper information, authorized pickup list, and photo release waiver. Children will not be permitted into camp without a completed information packet.

At a Glance Packing List:

- Weather appropriate attire that is able to get dirty – camp t-shirt every day unless otherwise specified
- Beverage/water bottle
- Lunch (full day campers)
- Sunscreen
- Please NO valuables
- Counselors will provide any special requirements or recommendations for the next day at pick-up
- Enthusiasm for a week long of zoo fun!

NOTE Zoo Camps are meant to be fun learning experiences where campers have the chance to immerse themselves in nature and learn about animals and the environment. Technology can be a great tool to help explore the world, but can also be very limiting to imagination and hands-on play. Therefore, cell phones and cameras are permitted to be carried if parent/guardian determines it is appropriate, however they will only be permitted to use them at designated times and no other electronic devices (i.e. gaming consoles) should be carried. If the camper is using their device inappropriately or causing distraction to other campers, Camp Counselors reserve the right to confiscate the device and return it at the end of the day.

If you are concerned about reaching your child during the day, please do so via the zoo phone, 610-799-4171.

Arrival and Departure:

- Please plan on arriving at the Lehigh Valley Zoo by approximately 8:15am.
- Valid photo ID is **required** for pick-up of campers. Any persons who may be picking up your camper must be also listed on the reservation form. For safety reasons, supply these persons with your specific “code”, listed on your reservation form, as the last four digits of your contact number.
- Campers will be signed in and out at drop-off and pick-up.
- Enter the Lehigh Valley Zoo using the main entrance. Follow the entrance road to the Lehigh Valley Zoo’s parking lots. Park in the parking lot on the left and look for the Camp Counselors at the Staff Entrance located behind the Snowy Owl. In the event the zoo is closed, please use our service gate entrance located on Game Preserve Road. The service gate is located just south of the Covered Bridge.
- If you would like to arrange extended care (early drop-off starts 7:00am, late pick-up until 5:30pm), please do so **two weeks** in advance of the camp by calling 610-799-4171x229. Extended care is \$10/hour/camper/day.
- If for some reason (traffic, etc.) you find you will need extended care at the last minute, please make an effort to contact us at 610-799-4171 as soon as you are able.

Attire:

- Campers will receive a camp T-shirt on the first day of camp, and should plan to wear that shirt every day unless otherwise specified by their counselor.
- Additional shirts can be purchased for \$10.
- Campers should wear weather appropriate clothing with comfortable, sturdy shoes, such as tennis shoes or light hiking boots. Open-toed shoes or sandals are not recommended.
- In the event of light rain campers will still tour the Zoo as planned. Please send the appropriate rain gear (jacket or poncho) with your camper. For safety reasons campers will not be permitted to carry umbrellas.

Weather:

Camp is held rain or shine. Please dress your child accordingly.

Food and Drink:

- Snacks will be provided for all camps. Please note any food allergies on the information sheet.
- Special snacks may be sent with campers who have allergies or other special dietary requirements.
- For full day camps, the camper should bring a non-perishable lunch and beverage daily (Pre-Zoo camp departs before lunch time). A pizza lunch will be provided on Friday, but campers are allowed to bring their own lunch if they prefer.
- Campers should bring a reusable water bottle that they can easily carry with them throughout the day (i.e. with a strap).

Special Needs:

- An aide may accompany a camper with special needs if the camper requires one-to-one attention.
- The Zoo requires that all adults in the classrooms have all of the following clearances: PA Child Abuse History Clearance, PA Criminal Record Check (ChildLine), and FBI Criminal Background Check (fingerprinting). These clearances must be less than one year old.
- Please send copies of these clearances with the participation form on which you have noted that an aide will be accompanying your camper.
- Aides will not be permitted in the classroom without all clearances. There are no exceptions.

Medications:

- Please indicate on your participation form any medication that your child will be taking while at Zoo Camp.
- All EpiPens/inhalers be carried in a fanny pack or backpack to be worn on the camper at all times. Please label the fanny pack or backpack with your child's name.
- Parents/guardians are notified immediately if their child faces an emergency and uses his or her EpiPen. A camper is allowed to carry his/her medication and self-medicate.
- All medications (prescription and over-the-counter) must be stored in the original product packaging and labeled with the camper's name. Prescription medication(s) must also include a label with the medication's name and dosage instructions, including time of administration of medicine, as well as the prescribing physician's name and telephone number.
- Zoo education staff will not be held responsible for housing/storing medication(s).
- Please provide a written statement from the child's medical provider and parent/legal guardian that states that the child is capable of self-medication without assistance.
- Zoo Camp staff will not dispense medications of any type (prescription or over-the-counter) to camp participants of any age.
- The staff may assist in the administration of certain life-saving medications (EpiPens, inhalers, allergy medication for severe allergies), if necessary upon written consent of the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) and/or physician's orders for medical emergencies.

Injuries

The Zoo has a first-aid station on grounds and staff members who are certified in first-aid. A representative from the Zoo will both notify you and call for emergency assistance if a serious injury occurs. It is very important that you supply us with the appropriate contact numbers on your participation form should we need to reach you in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register?

Please call the Education Department at 610-799-4171x229, 228, 227, 238

When should I register?

Camp sessions can fill up quickly, so call as soon as possible! Payment for the camp is due two weeks before the session begins. If there is space available within the two weeks of camp and you wish to register, payment is due immediately.

Can I register for just a day or two of camp?

Camps are designed to be a full week learning experience so we recommend attending the full session. If you are unable to do so, the camp is still full cost.

Can I pick up my camper early?

Any arrangements for early departure should be made with your Camp Counselor on the day of. Please keep in mind that camps involve learning about working as a team, and you should do your best to not withdraw your camper early.

Can I register for multiple camps?

Yes, Pre-Zoo (ages 4-5) has two camp sessions, and Bugs and 'Roos have seven unique camp sessions. In each session, campers will learn new and exciting topics while still encountering animals and learning what it's like to be a zookeeper.

Can they bring a cell phone?

If you would like your child to have a cell phone for communication purposes, they may bring it with, but they must keep it in their bags unless designated otherwise. If you need to reach your child, you may do so through 610-799-4171. If your child is using the cell phone or any other technology at inappropriate times, it will be confiscated by the counselor until the end of the day.

Will they go swimming?

Weather permitting, each camp will include a Creek Day with time spent in the Jordan Creek. Please send your camper with a change of clothes and a towel as well as closed toed shoes for entering the creek, i.e. water shoes or old sneakers. Sandals or bare feet are not permitted. Your camper may wear a swimsuit on this day too. The creek is shallow enough to be wading and splashing while exploring the aquatic ecosystem rather than fully swimming.

Who is running the camp?

Camp Counselors are seasonal staff trained by the Education Department with a background in natural sciences and environmental education. All counselors have their PA Child Abuse History Clearance, PA Criminal Record Check (ChildLine), and FBI Criminal Background Check (fingerprinting).

Will the campers have contact with animals during camp?

- Campers will have the opportunity to meet some of our ambassador animals and may be permitted to touch in some cases (these are not the exhibit animals)
- BioFacts, such as feathers, pelts, and bones will be used to enhance the learning experience
- In learning about becoming a zookeeper, campers may have the opportunity to assist in cleaning enclosures and feeding some ambassador animals

How do I register for Extended Care?

Please call the Education Department as soon as you know you will require extended care or at least two weeks in advance of the camp at 610-799-4171x229, 228, 227, 238. Extended care is \$10/camper/hour/day and is not extended camp, but we will keep your camper occupied until your arrival.

Have another question not listed here?

Call the Education Department at 610-799-4171x229, 228, 227, 238!