Welcome to ZooTampa at Lowry Park
Summer Camp 2020!

The Florida Environmental Education Center or "Zoo School" offers exciting educational experiences year round. The Zoo School is dedicated to offering only the best services for individuals, families, schools, and organizations. Zoo School programs are designed to be fun, innovative, imaginative, and investigative for all ages.

This handbook will provide you with information on the summer camp program our Zoo School offers.

For more information and reservations, please visit ZooTampa.org or contact Jamie Elkington at (813) 933-8093 or email at Jamie.Elkington@ZooTampa.org

Contact for Camp Information
Jamie Elkington – Education Office Manager
(813) 933-8093
Jamie.Elkington@ZooTampa.org

Jamie Elkington
Education Office Manager

Kelly Nash
Guest Experience Manager

Cara Treadway
Senior Director of Guest Engagement

Emergency Contact During Camp Hours
Zoo’s Main Line
(813) 935-8552 ext. 0
Please ask for Camps

1101 W. Sligh Ave. ● Tampa, FL ● 33604-4756
Table of Contents

The 2020 Zoo Camp Experience................................................................. 3
Registration and Payment Policies......................................................... 3
Waiver, Cancellation, and Withdrawal Policy........................................... 3
Camp Staff............................................................................................... 3
Camp Hours............................................................................................. 3
A Typical Camp Day................................................................................ 4
Special Experiences................................................................................ 5
Sample of a Camp Schedule................................................................. 5
Arrival....................................................................................................... 6
Dismissal................................................................................................... 6
Custody Issues....................................................................................... 6
Extended Care Options......................................................................... 6
Safety and Security................................................................................ 6
Accident Reports/Notification of Parents................................................. 6
Absent Campers.................................................................................... 7
Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals............................................................... 7
Weather Related Closing....................................................................... 7
What to Wear............................................................................................ 7
What to Bring........................................................................................... 7
What NOT to Bring.................................................................................. 8
Money and Valuables.............................................................................. 8
Use of Electronic Devices....................................................................... 8
TV and Computer Use............................................................................. 9
Water Play............................................................................................... 9
Birthday Celebrations During Camp..................................................... 9
Lost and Found....................................................................................... 9
Medications............................................................................................ 9
Epi-Pens.................................................................................................. 10
Camper Illnesses.................................................................................... 10
Camper Allergies................................................................................... 10
Medical Emergencies............................................................................. 10
A Child with Special Needs.................................................................... 11
Camper Safety Expectation Policy....................................................... 11
Program Expectation Policy................................................................. 11
Discipline Policy and Consequence Plan............................................. 11
Minor Infractions.................................................................................. 11
Serious Infractions............................................................................... 11
Immediate Dismissal............................................................................ 12
Important Telephone Numbers............................................................ 12
The 2020 Zoo Camp Experience
Over the summer, the Zoo School at ZooTampa at Lowry Park is headquarters for week-long camps for students who have completed grades K-8th. Participants learn about nature, science and the animal kingdom while hiking through the Zoo, exploring behind-the-scenes, and cooling off in the Zoo's water play areas. Zoo School camps include animal encounters, animal care chats, educational shows, games, crafts and more.

Registration and Payment Policies
Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis and takes place on ZooTampa.org. Payment is due in full when you register.

Waiver, Cancellation, and Withdrawal Policy
Please review our waiver pertaining to photographs as well as our cancellation and refund policy that is sent via e-mail to you.

We reserve the right to combine or cancel camps that have not met the minimum enrollment or if a venue becomes unavailable. A minimum of 5 students must be enrolled for a Summer Camp to take place. If a camp does not meet the required number of students, we will either merge your camper with another age camp topic or contact you a minimum of 3 days in advance so you are able to make other arrangements for your child.

In the event that you need to cancel, an 80% refund will be given if the cancellation request is received 15 days or more before the first day of camp. A 50% refund will be given for requests made 14 to 10 days before the first day of camp. No refunds will be given for cancellations made 9 or fewer days before the first day of camp. Please note: There is a $20 processing fee to reschedule 15 days or more before the first day of camp, and a $25 processing fee to reschedule 14 or fewer days before the first day of camp.

Camp Staff
Each summer camp has one instructor and one teen/college volunteer intern to assist the instructor per 12 campers. The Zoo maintains a capacity of 16 campers per general camp for each grade level. The Zoo maintains a capacity of 12 campers for signature experience camps. When considering camp instructors for employment, a minimum of a Bachelor degree and an active Florida Teaching Certification is desired. In addition, we have full time Zoo instructors that facilitate various environmental education programs at ZooTampa.
Camp Hours

Monday through Friday
Summer Camp: Academic Day: 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Completed 4th-8th grade sleepover: Once a month on a Friday night – pick up is Saturday morning at 8 a.m.
Extended Care Hours: All camps include Extended Care. Extended Care provides care outside of the academic day and includes the hours of 7:00am to 9:00am and 4:00pm to 6:00pm.

A Typical Camp Day
Each day at camp includes all or most of the activities listed below.

• **Arrival** — Upon check in with their camp group, counselors provides games and activities to keep all the children active and engaged. This time also allows campers to get to know each other.

• **Animal Enrichment** — Every day, campers will have amazing opportunities to get up close and personal with the animals. Campers participate in engaging activities like creating enrichment for our primates, bears, and many more!

• **Special Animal Encounters** — Two days a week campers have the chance to participate in very personal and unique animal encounters, meeting all kinds of animals in our outreach inventory from tiny tenrecs to snakes that can reach up to 10ft long!

• **Snack** — **NEW!** All camps have a scheduled snack break in the afternoon. Snack is provided by ZooTampa.

• **Themed Crafts, Activities, and Games** — Each camp has a wide variety of crafts and games that are both fun and educational. Games are played both indoors and outdoors. We make sure everyone drinks plenty of water.

• **Zoo Hikes and Behind the Scenes** — All camps spend time out in the Zoo everyday exploring our animal exhibits. Campers may even have opportunities to explore behind the scenes and uncover some of the Zoo’s best kept secrets!

• **Animal Care Chats** — Campers meet with animal care staff to learn insider info on animal training and husbandry.

• **Classroom Lessons and Educational Videos** — Campers have special opportunities to learn camp themed lessons in fun and interactive ways while cooling down in the air-conditioned classrooms.

• **Animal Shows and Feedings** — Every camp is encouraged to experience all of the animals shows the Zoo has to offer as well as feeding the koi fish, goats, and ducks when the schedule allows.

• **Rides** — All camps are encouraged to spend time on the various rides ZooTampa offers. Please be aware that specific camps may be limited to the rides they can go on depending on height and age.

• **Lunch** — All camps have lunch included. Lunch includes a hot entrée*, chips and a cookie. Daily lunch is as follows:
  - Monday: Hamburger
  - Tuesday: Chicken Tenders
  - Wednesday: Cheese Pizza
  - Thursday: Spaghetti and Meatballs
  - Friday: Hot Dog

*For dietary restrictions or allergies, PB&J or Turkey Sandwiches are available each day as an alternative. While we provide lunch, you will continue to have the option of packing your child’s lunch if you prefer. We do not provide refrigeration or microwave.
Summer Camp All Inclusive Experience includes:

- Lunch and snack each day of camp
- T-shirt and name tag to be worn each day of camp
- Refillable water bottle
- Zoo water bottle carrier
- Commemorative photo
- Before & aftercare
- A complimentary ticket to visit the Zoo on another summer day

Special Experiences
Animal encounters are private experiences that are exclusive to students enrolled in camp. Campers may experience animal training, animal toy making, feedings, behind the scenes encounters, and more.

Each camp registration includes a zoo ticket for each week of camp booked. This allows your child to show off all that they have learned following their camp week on a return trip to the Zoo! Each ticket will be valid for two weeks, and are handed out on the first day of each camp week.

CAMPERs ENROLLED IN COMPLETED 4TH-8TH GRADE CAMPS: All campers enrolled in 4th-8th grade camps have an opportunity to attend a sleepover in the summer of 2020. Sleepovers take place on June 26, 2020 for all campers enrolled in June camps and July 31, 2020 for all campers enrolled in July camps. If you are attending camp that week please remember to pack and bring on Friday morning, a sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, toothpaste and a change of clothes. If you attended a previous week of camp please drop off your child at 6:30pm at the front gate of the Zoo School. Early registrants will be contacted at the end of May for registration. Once camp starts, camper’s parents will be contacted the week prior to the sleepover to confirm if the camper will be attending.

SAMPLE Camp Schedule
This is a sample schedule to demonstrate the variety and duration of activities a camper will experience on a daily basis. Activities will also vary according to your child’s camp theme and special events.
Arrival and Dismissal
Camp drop off and pick up will be at the Zoo School, located along North Boulevard, to the right of the main entrance of the Zoo. The camp day starts at 9:00 am and ends at 4:00 pm. Extended care, which is included in the price of the camp, is from 7-9 a.m. and 4-6 p.m. Please drop your child off at the front gate of the Zoo school by 9:00 am and sign your child in. If you are dropping off later than 9:30 am, when you arrive, check in with staff in the Resource Center office. Please note there may be a delay with the sign in process if you are dropping off late.

When picking up your child, the camp staff will be there to check your ID and have you sign your child out on the Zoo’s daily attendance sheet. Please be sure to ALWAYS BRING A PICTURE ID; no camper will be released unless the adult picking up the child is on the authorized pick-up list and shows a picture ID. If you would like to add more people to your child’s pick up list the account holder must contact our Office Manager Jamie Elkington at (813) 933-8093 or Jamie.Elkington@ZooTampa.org. Please note: your child’s safety is our primary concern and every possible effort is made to make camp dismissal procedures quick and convenient. Feel free to take a few minutes at pick up to inquire about your child’s day! Our camp staff will gladly fill you in on some of the highlights.

Custody Issues
Without legal documentation, the Zoo School cannot withhold a parent from picking up his or her child.

Extended Care Options
All camps will include extended care. Extended care provides care outside of the academic day and includes the hours of 7 am to 9 am and 4 pm to 6 pm. Students picked up after 6:00pm will be charged a $1 a minute fee for late pick up.

Extended Care Activities – Free play takes place on the playground and/or in the classroom. Activities on the playground include swings, slides, a balance beam, monkey bars, sand boxes with digging tools, round balls and footballs, hula-hoops and jump ropes. Activities in the classroom include movies, coloring sheets, puzzles and games

Safety and Security
For your child's safety, you must sign your camper in with his/her camp instructor when you drop your camper off for camp. We also require that adults picking up children enrolled in camp have their ID available so the instructor can compare the ID with the names on the pickup authorization form. Your child will NOT be released to any person not listed on the camp registration form or to any person without proper identification. Please be patient, we will need to check off each child before he or she leaves with an authorized adult. Again, this is for your child’s safety.

If you would like to add more people to your child’s pick up list the account holder must contact our Office Manager Jamie Elkington at (813) 933-8093 or Jamie.Elkington@ZooTampa.org.

Accident Reports/Notification of Parents
Any accidents that happen throughout the day that affect your child will be documented by the instructor or staff supervising your child at that time. Information will be provided on an Accident/Incident Report created by Hillsborough County Child Care Licensing. You will sign a copy when you pick up your child that will be placed in our summer camp file. If the accident is severe enough to warrant medical attention, you will be called immediately. If your child has an accident that affects their head in any way, you will also be called immediately. For more details about this type of accident, please refer to the Medical Emergencies section of this handbook.
Absent Campers
If your child will be absent on a particular day, please contact Jamie Elkington at (813) 933-8093 with your child’s name; a voicemail is sufficient if you cannot speak directly with Jamie. There is no refund for camp days missed (see Cancellation/Withdrawal Policy).

Late Arrivals/Early Dismissals
Academic programming will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m., it is important that campers arrive on time. If you know ahead of time that your child will arrive late, please leave a voicemail with Jamie Elkington at (813) 933-8093 with your child’s name and their expected time of arrival. Advanced warning will save time and help us provide the best service for your child. When you arrive, check in with your child’s camp classroom or the Resource Center office if the camp is not in their classroom.

Weather Related Closing
In the event of a hurricane or any other event that would put the students or staff in an unsafe position, we will be closed. ZooTampa at Lowry Park will also post an automated message on the Zoo’s main telephone line to notify callers of the school closing. If internet access is available we will post on Facebook, Twitter and disseminated by email from the VP of Education or an education personnel to all parents and staff.

What to Wear
We highly recommend labeling all clothes with your camper’s full name using permanent marker or Mabel Labels. All campers are required to wear the camp T-shirt at all times except for water play. Your child will receive a t-shirt on the first day of camp. However, if you already have a shirt from a previous camp, feel free to send your child to camp in that shirt. Campers will receive one t-shirt per week they are signed up for on their first day of camp. Example: If your child is signed up for 6 weeks of camp, they will receive 6 camp T-shirts on their first day at camp. T-shirts must be worn daily and previous years’ t-shirt styles are acceptable. Campers may purchase additional camp T-shirts, for $10 each, through Jamie Elkington at Jamie.Elkington@ZooTampa.org, or through a staff member in the Resource Center of Zoo School during camp days. Proper attire must be worn at all times, including closed-toe shoes. This is a very hands-on camp experience and your child will get dirty, so please dress them appropriately. ZooTampa at Lowry Park is not responsible for any clothing that may become soiled or for any lost or stolen items. We recommend bringing extra clothes in a zip lock bag with your child’s name on it and leaving them in your child’s classroom for the duration of the camp week. PLEASE NOTE: No shoes with wheels, such as Heelys or roller sneakers, are to be worn at camp.

What to bring
All camps will include lunch and one snack. Lunch includes a hot entrée, chips, & cookie. We highly recommend labeling all items with your camper’s full name in permanent maker or use Mabel Labels.
Lunch menu:
Monday: Burger sliders
Tuesday: Chicken Tenders
Wednesday: Cheese Pizza
Thursday: Spaghetti and Meatballs
Friday: Hot dog

Snack menu: ZooTampa will provide snack for the students. Options will change daily but some of the options that may be available are animal crackers, goldfish crackers, fruit snacks or chex mix.

PLEASE NOTE: While we are providing lunch, you will continue to have the option of packing your child’s lunch if you prefer. We do not provide refrigeration or microwave. Campers are responsible to provide the following:

- Sunscreen*
- Insect repellent*
- Backpack – to be used as transport for water play items and crafts.
- Sleepover Items (for completed 4th-8th grade camps on select Fridays): Sleeping bag, pillow, change of clothes, tooth brush, tooth paste.

*Self-applied unless the parent has made prior arrangements via consent on the HEALTH/PERMISSION FORM.

What NOT to Bring
- No videogames or cellphones are permitted during academic camp hours. They can be used during extended care ONLY. *
- No soda is to be sent in your child’s snack and lunch packs. **
- No personal items such as toys, games, cards, stuffed animals, etc.
- No items your child would become upset about if it were to get lost.

- No shoes with wheels, such as Heelys or roller sneakers, are to be worn at camp.

* Any items seen during camp hours will be confiscated until the end of the day.
** Soda causes bloating and can make your child sick during times when exposed to extreme heat. To avoid this problem, please send only water or gatorade with your child.

Money and Valuables
We strongly discourage children from bringing any valuables to Zoo Camp. The Zoo is not responsible for camper’s lost, broken, or stolen items; this includes all handheld electronic devices, such as iPads®, handheld videogames, and cell phones. Your camper will play games and make crafts that are included in the camp fee. Your camper’s counselor will let them know what day(s) they are able to buy an Icee or shop in the gift shops. There is no need for your child to bring additional money to camp unless specified by the counselor. Campers money should be sent in a secure container (pouches, wallet, zip lock, etc.) that is easily identifiable. The Zoo is not responsible for any lost money.

Use of Electronic Devices
We strongly discourage campers from bringing valuable electronic devices to camp. The Zoo is not responsible for camper’s lost, broken, or stolen items; this includes all handheld electronic devices, such as iPads®, handheld videogames, and cell phones. Campers are permitted to bring cellphones or handheld videogames that may be used during extended care hours ONLY. During regular camp hours, campers may only use cellphones and cameras to take photos. If a camper is seen using an electronic device during academic camp hours, other than for pictures, the device may be confiscated until the end of the day at pickup. In the case of an emergency, a camper should inform their instructor and we will contact you.
immediately. If you need to contact your child due to an emergency please contact (813) 935-8552 ext.0 and ask them to contact Camps.

**TV and Computer Use**
Currently, we have computers in some of the camp classrooms to supplement educational activities. We do provide camps an opportunity to use DVDs or other videos to enhance the campers learning during cool down times in the classrooms. In general, TV and computer use in camp only takes up a small portion of the day, if at all.

**Water Play**
On the first day of each camp, you will receive a letter from your child’s teacher sharing with you a little about what they will be doing for the week and if/when campers will participate in water play. Water play will never be on the first day of camp. Please make sure that on water play day your child comes dressed in a bathing suit. In his/her backpack, please bring water shoes, towel, clothing and undergarments to change into, and sunscreen and/or hat (if needed). Please bring a plastic bag to store wet items in after water play.

**Birthday Celebrations During Camp**
Birthdays are special occasions and we love to celebrate them. Parents are welcome to provide store bought refreshments that show a list of ingredients. Homemade refreshments are not permitted due to allergy reasons. Additionally, we ask that parents encourage options for children with food allergies. Balloons and candles are not allowed at any time for safety reasons.

If you would like to provide a treat for the class, please speak to the camp counselor ahead of time to make arrangements. Please ask your camp counselor for an updated list of the number of students and any allergies in the class.

**Lost and Found**
Please check with the Camp Office directly for items lost at camp. We keep all found items for at least two weeks in the Camp Office. After that time items may be donated.

**Medications**
If your child needs to take prescription medication daily during camp hours or on an as needed basis, a Parent Authorization for Medication Form needs to be filled out and the medication and form should be given DIRECTLY to the camp instructor, manager, or director. The form can be obtained from your child’s instructor or a staff member in the Resource Center. The following list helps ensure that you are doing your part in helping us guarantee your child’s prescription medication is safely administered:

- The prescription medication container must have the pharmacy label, your child’s legal name on it, and be a medication you have given at home at least once (in case of allergic reaction). Additionally we will not administer medication that is past the expiration date.
- Medications needing to be refrigerated will be stored in the Resource Center office refrigerator in a lock box. Medication cannot be stored with your child’s belongings in the classroom unless it is an Epi-pen.
- Epi-Pens can be carried by the camp instructor in the backpack, locked.

Please note: We will not administer any prescription medication without proper written permission. If the Parent Authorization for Medication form is not fully completed or does not match the prescription label, or the medication is over-the-counter or expired, we will notify you that we will be unable to dispense the medication.
Epi-Pens

If your child does have an Epi-Pen, you are required to fill out the Anaphylaxis form, which a staff member will provide. **Your child MUST be trained by a physician and be fully knowledgeable of how and when to use the Epi-Pen.**

If your child needs to use his/her Epi-Pen, we will immediately call 911 for your child to be checked over by emergency medical personal. This could include a trip to the Emergency Room, if emergency medical personal deem necessary.

Camper Illnesses

ZooTampa reserves the right to refuse entrance to Camp if the child is exhibiting the symptoms listed below. In the event a camper becomes ill, camp staff will notify the Parent/Guardian listed on the HEALTH/PERMISSION FORM followed by those listed as emergency contacts. For the well-being of your camper, and the safety of other campers in our program, we will provide space for the child in our office with a staff member and you will be asked to pick up your child immediately if your child shows any of the following symptoms:

- Fever of 100°F or higher
- Severe/Persistent Coughing
- Vomiting
- Conjunctivitis (pinkeye)*
- Sore Throat
- Ringworm
- Lice*
- Other Contagious Illnesses
- Severe Headache

*Child must be treated for lice and pinkeye for a minimum of 24 hours and must present a doctor’s note upon returning to camp.

Camper Allergies

The Zoo School recognizes the potentially serious consequences of children with allergies. These allergies may include a condition known as anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction brought about by exposure to certain foods or other substances. The Zoo School is not free of food items and non-food items that may lead to a severe allergic or anaphylactic reaction. The Zoo School will make every reasonable effort to reduce the risk to children with severe allergies or anaphylaxis in accordance with this policy.

At this time, the Zoo School does not have any nut free classrooms, but if a child becomes allergic to tree nuts or a child is enrolled who is anaphylactic to tree nuts, we will provide a nut free table that the camper can sit at during his or her lunch period. In addition to this we will have allergy friendly options available with our included lunch program. At the start of the camp week please speak with your instructor regarding your child’s lunchtime needs or restrictions.

We live in a world that is contaminated with potential allergens and anaphylactic children must learn to avoid specific triggers. While the key responsibility lies with the anaphylactic individual and his/her family, in the case of a young anaphylactic child, the childcare community must also be aware. Creating an environment that reduces the risk to severely allergic or anaphylactic children requires the cooperation and understanding of all members of the Zoo School, including staff, children and parents.

It is the parent’s responsibility to inform the instructor verbally and in writing that his/her child has an allergy, is anaphylactic, or potentially anaphylactic. This must be listed on the Zoo School registration form.

Medical Emergencies

In the event that your child experiences a medical emergency, we will immediately call 911 for your child to be checked over by emergency medical personal. This could include a trip to the Emergency Room, if emergency medical personal deem necessary. Your child’s instructor will
contact you if/when this situation occurs; in addition, a staff member will accompany your child to the Emergency Room.

A Child with Special Needs
ZooTampa Summer Camp strives to meet the needs of all children. In order for us to be able to help your child have an enjoyable experience at camp, please notify us upon registration of your child’s special needs prior to your child’s first day of camp. This may include information on allergies, accessibility concerns, behavioral, psychological or emotional conditions, or other special needs. While we offer our camps to as wide a range of children as possible, it is not possible for us to offer one-on-one care.

Camper Safety Expectation Policy
• Listen and follow directions.
• Stay with your group at ALL times.
• WALK to all areas and destinations.
• Respect for all campers and staff.
• Keep your hands and feet to yourself. Violence will not be tolerated.
• Respect the animals and their environment.

ZooTampa Summer Camp has standard rules of behavior, including respecting staff, fellow campers, camp materials and, especially, the animals. These rules are reviewed with the campers on the first day before the start of camp and at different times throughout the week. Disrespectful behavior, bullying, foul or hurtful language, and violence toward camp staff, fellow campers and animals will not be tolerated. In the event that the following Discipline Policy is disregarded, ZooTampa reserves the right to dismiss the camper from the Summer Camp program without refund.

Program Expectation Policy
Be Safe, Be a Friend, Be Respectful.

ZooTampa is a demonstration site for Program Wide Positive Behavior Support.

Discipline Policy and Consequence Plan
To ensure the safety and well-being of staff, campers, and animals, the following policy will be enforced.

Minor Infractions
Disrespect shown to staff members, fellow campers, or animals.
• 1st Offense – Camper will be given a verbal warning and talk with instructor. In writing, the instructor will document each expectation not being met in a behavior log.
• 2nd Offense – Camper will be given “me time” in the office with the Camp Coordinator and the student will make a call to his/her parent from the office to explain their actions. Campers who receive “me time” from the group will not be included in zoo hikes or special activities for that day.
• 3rd Offense – Camper will be dismissed from camp without a refund. This is to ensure a favorable learning environment for all.

Serious Infractions
Endangerment or intent to endanger another’s well-being (human or animal).
• 1st Offense – Camper will be given “me time” in the office with the Camp Coordinator and the camper will make a call to his/her parent from the office to explain their actions. Campers who receive “me time” away from the group will not be included in zoo hikes or special activities for that day.
• 2nd Offense – Camper will be dismissed from camp without a refund. This is to ensure a favorable learning environment for all.
Immediate Dismissal

Behaviors that result in immediate dismissal without refund include terroristic threats, sexual harassment, possession of drugs/alcohol/weapons, stealing, serious injury or verbal abuse to campers, staff members or animals.

Important Telephone Numbers

- Zoo's Main line: (813) 935-8552

- To make changes to your child's schedule, or to let us know when you are running late, call our Office Manager Jamie Elkington at (813) 933-8093 or Jamie.Elkington@ZooTampa.org.

- If you have an emergency and you need to contact your child immediately, press 0 for the Operator and ask them to contact Camps.

We strive to provide quality programming and welcome any suggestions or comments you may have for improving our services to you. We hope you have a fun and educational time in our camps.