



Parents' Guide 2023

Winter Break Camp Dates and Rates

Full-day camp	\$160 members/\$180 nonmembers	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Half-day camp	\$115 members/\$130 nonmembers	9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Dates: December 26 – December 29

BACK for Winter 2023, Cleveland Metroparks Zoo will be offering one week of Winter Break Camp for children ages 5-10. Programs will be based out of the Jungle Lab classroom located in The RainForest. Programs are fun, interactive, and educational.

This camp will explore the entire zoo, focusing on what happens during the winter months and highlight the Zoo's conservation programs. All sessions include tours of Zoo exhibits, Get-Close encounters with small animals, arts and crafts, and conservation-themed games.



Goals and Objectives

We want your child to have a great time while learning about animals.

Camps at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo support the organizational mission to create compelling experiences that connect people with wildlife and inspire personal responsibility for conserving the natural world. All Conservation Education programs are designed to help foster respect for, connections with, and appreciation of wildlife and coexisting human cultures.

Activities

The camp program is designed to provide campers with a variety of wildlife and conservation themed activities in a safe, nurturing, and fun atmosphere. The camper's day is a balance of active and quiet activities suitable to the age and abilities of the campers in the group. Campers will have the opportunity to participate in various activities. The activity schedule will remain flexible to allow camp counselors to maximize those times when Zoo animals are visible and most active.

Program activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Tours of Zoo exhibits
- Up-close encounters with small education animals (snakes, birds, small mammals, etc.)
- Arts and crafts
- Games and nature activities that reinforce the concepts taught that day

Animal Contact: Campers will have opportunities for up-close encounters with small education animals. Touching of these animals may or may not be permitted. For the safety of all, direct contact with exhibit animals is not possible. All exhibit animal care, including feeding and cleaning, is done by professionally trained zoo keepers.

Registration/Admissions Policy

Pre-registration is required for full-day and half-day campers, as well as before and after camp care. Payment in full is due at the time of registration and registrations are processed on a first come, first served basis. Online registration is available at futureforwildlife.org/learn. Only complete registrations, which must include both the Registration Form and Waiver Packet, will be processed.

Program fees and deposits are **non-refundable**. Participants assume risk of all changes in personal health and affairs. With advanced notice of one week prior to the scheduled program date, the program may be rescheduled for free to a new date pending inventory/availability before the end of the following calendar year with a maximum of one (1) reschedule move. Rescheduling requests will not be honored for "no-shows" and requests submitted with less than a week's notice, will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

If Cleveland Metroparks Zoo finds it necessary to cancel a program, a refund or internal education program credit will be issued. Registrants will be notified if programs are cancelled. By registering for a program, you acknowledge that you have read and understand this policy.

Lunch Guidelines

Full-day campers are responsible for bringing their own lunch and beverage (no glass containers, please). Campers WILL NOT be permitted to purchase food from any restaurant or food stand while participating in Spring Break Camp.

Half-day campers do not need to bring a lunch, as they leave camp prior to lunch time.

The Zoo will provide a mid-morning snack for all campers and a mid-afternoon snack for full-day campers. Examples of snacks that may be served include:

- Granola Bars
- Sun Chips
- String Cheese

Due to the severe nut allergies of an increasing number of children, the Zoo will not serve snacks containing nuts, nut products, or peanut butter.

For other dietary needs, please contact the camp office at 216.635.3391 prior to your session regarding snack substitutions for your camper.

Map

From I-71: Exit at West 25th Street and follow the Zoo signs. The Zoo is approximately one mile from the I-71 exit.

From I-90: Take I-71 South, exit at West 25th Street and follow the Zoo signs.

From I-480: The Zoo is approximately two miles from the I-480 exit. Exit State Road (north) to Pearl Road. Follow Pearl Rd to Memphis Ave. Take a left on Memphis Ave. Take Memphis Ave to Fulton Pkwy and turn right onto Fulton Pkwy. Follow Fulton Pkwy and make a right onto Wildlife Way.



From I-80 (Ohio Turnpike): Zoo accessed from two exits. Take Exit 173/11 to I-77 North, to I-480 West to State Road (north) to Pearl Road. Follow Pearl Rd to Memphis Ave. Take a left on Memphis Ave. Take Memphis Ave to Fulton Pkwy and turn right onto Fulton Pkwy. Follow Fulton Pkwy and make a right onto Wildlife Way. Or, take Exit 161/10 to I-71 North to the West 25th Street exit then follow Zoo signs.

From Akron: Follow I-77 (north) to I-480 (west), exit at State Road (north) to Pearl Road. Follow Pearl Rd to Memphis Ave. Take a left on Memphis Ave. Take Memphis Ave to Fulton Pkwy and turn right onto Fulton Pkwy. Follow Fulton Pkwy and make a right onto Wildlife Way.

Arrival/Departure Procedures

Arrivals: Full-day and half-day arrival time is 9:00am. The check-in process will begin promptly at 9:00am at the RainForest entrance.

Departures: Half-day camp departure time is 12:30pm at Zoo Administration Building. Full-day camp departure time is 4:00pm at the RainForest.

For your child's safety, please follow these procedures when picking up and dropping off:

- Follow the drive into the Zoo and park your car.
- Walk your camper to the RainForest entrance.
- Have your camper's ID number, lunch, and any necessary medications with you at this time.
- Camp staff will meet you at the RainForest entrance. Here you will not only finalize any paperwork and ask any questions you may have, but you will also be given the opportunity to meet your child's camp counselor.
- When picking up, park your car and proceed to the Zoo Administration Building for half-day campers, and the RainForest for full-day campers.
- **Bring your camper ID number with you.** Without this camper ID number we **cannot** release your child. *NOTE: If you are carpooling, be sure to have the ID numbers of each camper you intend to pick up.*
- Once we verify each ID number, camp staff will turn over your camper(s) to you.
- These procedures have been established for the safety of your children. Please be patient.

Late Fees: Any fees for late pick-up will be charged to your account. Late fees of \$5 for every 15 minute interval or part thereof will be assessed for:

- half-day campers not picked up by 12:46pm
- full-day campers not picked up by 4:16pm

If your camper is going to be absent, please call the Zoo Education office at 216.635.3391 to notify our staff.

Discipline Policy

To provide for the safe enjoyment of all campers, counselors will not allow inappropriate behaviors. Examples of inappropriate behaviors include:

- Bullying
- Mistreating animals
- Name-calling
- Talking back
- Fighting
- Stealing
- Disobeying instructions or safety rules
- Swearing
- Deliberate property damage
- Disobeying safety regulations
- Breaking another camper's skin

Should a camper misbehave, counselors will work with the child to make sure that they are aware of the unacceptability of their actions and to jointly agree to a solution to prevent any further offenses. Depending on the severity of the offense, camp staff may need to progressively work through the following consequences:

- Time out
- Phone call to parents
- Parent meeting
- Possible suspension

While the discipline policy will be reviewed with all campers on their first morning at camp, please discuss this policy with your camper before that time. Camp staff believes that your understanding of these expectations, and your support of them, is integral to your camper's positive experience.

Thank you for helping to make this year's Winter Break Camp a success for your child and fellow campers.

Do's and Don'ts

- **DO** send your child in comfortable shoes and clothing appropriate for the day's weather. Activities will take place rain, snow, or shine and campers will do a lot of walking. Please keep in mind that your child is responsible for carrying any items they bring with them throughout the day.
- **DON'T** send your child with money to spend in the food or gift shops. Campers will not be visiting these areas.
- **DON'T** send your camper with cell phones, video games, or radio/portable speakers. Backpacks and water bottles are acceptable; however your child is responsible for carrying those items throughout the day.
- **DON'T** send your child to camp if they have tested positive for Covid-19 or experience any of the following or other symptoms as defined by the CDC:
 - Cough
 - Elevated temperature
 - Shortness of breath
 - Exposure to known or suspected Covid-19 positive person

Participant Health Records

All campers must have a completed Emergency Medical Release form on file at the Zoo before they will be allowed to participate in any camp activities. This form is not considered complete without a parent or guardian signature and date in Part I, Refusal to Consent, or Part II, Consent Granted.

Campers needing any form of medication during the day must have a completed Parent/Guardian Request for Administration of Medication form on file at the Zoo before they will be allowed to take any medications, including:

- Prescription medication
- Nonprescription medication
- Topical product (sunscreen, insect repellent)
- Food supplement

This form is not considered complete without a parent or guardian signature and date.

All medications will be kept in a secure location during the course of camp and will be administered at the appropriate times by trained staff. All medications must be clearly labeled with the camper's name and in their original packaging. Refrigeration is available if required.

Illness/Emergency Medical Procedures

In the best interest of your camper, as well as the other campers and the staff, please do not send your camper to camp when they are ill or show symptoms of a communicable disease. Please contact the office if you know that your camper will be absent.

Cleveland Metroparks asks that you specifically monitor for possible Covid-19 symptoms and keep your camper home if they experience any of the following or other symptoms as defined by the CDC:

- Cough
- Elevated temperature
- Shortness of breath
- Exposure to known or suspected Covid-19 positive person

Our camp follows the Ohio Department of Health “Communicable Disease Chart” in that if there is a concern that a child may have a communicable disease, the parent/guardian will be notified that an early pick-up will be required. Some symptoms of communicable diseases are: diarrhea, severe coughing, difficult or rapid breathing, yellowish skin/eyes, conjunctivitis, temperature of 100° or higher coupled with other symptoms, untreated infected skin patches, unusual spots/rashes, sore throat/difficulty swallowing, vomiting, lice, scabies. A staff member will remain with the camper until he/she is picked up.

In case of emergency, staff from the Zoo’s First Aid office will be dispatched to the camper’s location to assess the situation. Camp counselors will call the camper’s emergency contact numbers if it is deemed that treatment or transport is necessary.

