



Parents' Guide 2024

2024 Summer Day Camp Dates and Rates

Full-day camp	\$225 members/\$250 nonmembers	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Half-day camp	\$155 members/\$175 nonmembers	9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Before camp care	\$31	begins at 7:30 AM
After camp care	\$35	ends at 6:00 PM

During the holiday week of July 4th, a special four-day camp will be offered at a discounted price. This holiday camp will provide campers with a unique opportunity to learn about enrichment and how the Zoo helps create stimulating and challenging environments, objects, and activities for its animals. Register for **Session 5!**

Full-day camp	\$180 members/\$200 nonmembers	9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Half-day camp	\$125 members/\$140 nonmembers	9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

For ages 5-10, we offer **three camps** on alternating weeks, so kids can spend more than one session at Summer Day Camp! All three camps will explore the Zoo, but each week will focus on a new theme.

For ages 11-12, our **Wildlife Biology** program allows older campers to explore the Zoo while learning about the importance of observation and exploration.

For ages 13-14, our **Zoo Careers** camp allows participants to explore the professional fields of animal care, education, research and more. This program gives campers a closer look at the real work involved with these exciting careers.

Goals and Objectives

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

Summer Day Camp at Cleveland Metroparks Zoo supports 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 Summer Day Camp program is designed to provide campers with a variety of wildlife and conservation themed activities in a safe, nurturing, and fun atmosphere. A 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 individual, small, and large group 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
- Conservation field work

Activity schedules for the week will vary depending on age level; therefore, children in different age groups may not have identical schedules.

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

Registration, prior to the camp start date, 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.

In order to ensure that all campers receive age-appropriate opportunities, campers are grouped by their age as of June 3, 2024, into the following categories:

- 5-6 year olds
- 7-8 year olds
- 9-10 year olds
- 11-12 year olds
- 13-14 year olds

Counselor to camper ratio for the 5-6 year old grouping is 1 counselor for every 6 campers and 1 counselor for every 10 campers for all other age groups.

Exceptions will not be made to the above categories. There will be occasions throughout the day when siblings and friends from different age groups will be participating in activities together.

As classes may fill quickly, the Zoo cannot guarantee that your child and friend of the same age group will be placed together. If registering online or by mail, please indicate with whom you would prefer your child to be placed.

Camp Schedule and Topics

During the holiday week of **July 4th** a special four-day camp will be offered at a discounted price. This holiday camp will provide campers with a unique opportunity to learn about enrichment and how the Zoo helps create stimulating and challenging environments, objects, and activities for its animals. Register for **Session 5!**

2024 Zoo Summer Day Camp Themes by Session/Week						
Session	Week of	Ages 5-6	Ages 7-8	Ages 9-10	Ages 11-12	Ages 13-14
1	6/3-6/7	Five Senses	Animal Defenses	Adaptations	Wildlife Biology	No Camp
2	6/10-6/14	Shapes and Sizes	Habitats	ZSI: Habitats	No Camp	Zoo Careers
3	6/17-6/21	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	Wildlife Biology	No Camp
4	6/24-6/28	Five Senses	Animal Defenses	Adaptations	No Camp	Zoo Careers
5	Discount 7/1 - 7/5	Enrichment	Enrichment	Enrichment	Enrichment	No Camp
6	7/8-7/12	Shapes and Sizes	Habitats	ZSI: Habitats	No Camp	Zoo Careers
7	7/15-7/19	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	Wildlife Biology	No Camp
8	7/22-7/26	Five Senses	Animal Defenses	Adaptations	No Camp	Zoo Careers
9	7/29-8/2	Shapes and Sizes	Habitats	ZSI: Habitats	Wildlife Biology	No Camp
10	8/5-8/9	Conservation	Conservation	Conservation	No Camp	Zoo Careers

Lunch Guidelines

Full-day campers are responsible for bringing their own lunch and beverage (no glass containers, please). A reusable lunch bag will be provided for each camper on the first day and labeled with their name. We request that you please use this lunch bag throughout the week. Campers WILL NOT be permitted to purchase food from any restaurant or food stand while participating in 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: Animal Crackers, Teddy Grahams, and 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

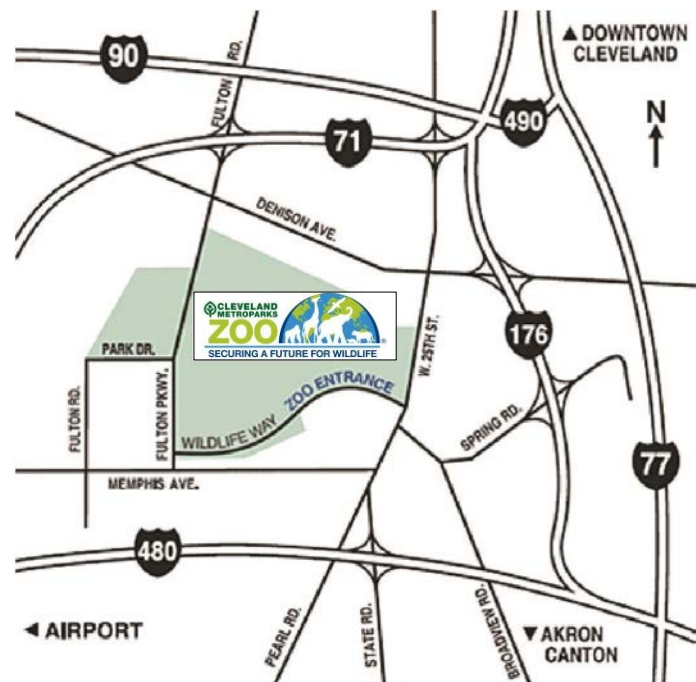
From I-71: Exit at West 25th Street and follow the Zoo signs. The Zoo is approximately one mile from the I-71 exit.

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: Before Care arrival time is 7:30-8:30am. Full-day and half-day arrival time is 8:30-9:00am.

Departures: Half-day camp departure time is 12:30pm. Full-day camp departure time is 4:00pm.
After Care departure time is 4:15-6:00pm.

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

- Follow the drive past the main entrance gate and park your car in the designated Summer Day Camp parking area. *Parking your car, instead of idling in line, saves gas and reduces car emissions, making Day Camp a greener place to be!*
- Walk your camper to the registration table. Registration tables will be arranged according to camper's age.
- Have your camper's booking ID number, lunch, and any necessary medications with you at this time.
- Summer Day Camp staff will meet you at the appropriate age group table. Here you can ask any questions you may have and have the opportunity to meet your child's camp counselor on that very first morning!
- When picking up, park your car in the designated Summer Day Camp parking area and proceed to the appropriate pick-up table. (Remember that tables are arranged according to age)
- **Bring your booking ID number with you.** Without this booking 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 escort your camper(s) to you.
- These procedures have been established for the safety of your children. Please be patient.
- Traffic may be VERY HEAVY on Free Mondays. Please take this into consideration and allow for extra time.
- **Prior notification of any early check-outs will help to ensure a safe and organized process at Summer Day Camp.** Families who would like to pick up their campers prior to regular checkout time should make arrangements with a camp supervisor in advance. We will do our best to work with you to accommodate your early check-out.
- **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
 - after care campers not picked up by 6:01pm

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

Discipline Policy

Summer Day Camp's discipline policy is based on a system of Rights, Privileges and Expectations.

Rights: All campers have the right to respectful, considerate treatment, meeting of physical needs, and an atmosphere of accountability.

Privileges: All campers have the privilege to fully participate in the camp program and activities. This privilege is offered uniformly, and portions are withdrawn only for deviation from acceptable behavior.

Expectations: Expectations of campers, parents, and staff include:

- Considerate treatment of all people; physically, verbally and non-verbally.
- Considerate treatment of the Zoo's animals, facilities, landscape and materials.
- Appropriate language at all times and in all situations.

Inappropriate behavior will be handled initially by the counselor and will be addressed by the camp administrative staff as necessary. Parents are notified of any major issues and we appreciate your cooperation in helping keep Summer Day Camp safe and enjoyable for all. Among the tools we use to help campers develop responsible and appropriate behavior patterns are discussions, clear communication about rules/expectations and consequences, and separation from the group to refocus/regain calm. In some situations, parents may be called to pick up a camper immediately, or a camper may be asked to remain home for a day as a punitive and reflective measure. Staff keeps a log of all disciplinary action that goes beyond a warning. Campers who exhibit persistent disciplinary issues that require excessive staff attention may be dismissed from Summer Day Camp. Certain situations call for the *immediate* and *permanent* dismissal of a camper from the program. These may include: actual, threatened, intended, or implied physical violence towards campers, staff, or animals; grossly inappropriate gestures or actions; theft; and the use or carrying of illegal substances or items.

Refunds will not be granted for campers that are dismissed from camp.

To provide for the safe enjoyment of all campers, Summer Day Camp 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

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. Summer Day 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 Summer Day 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 or shine and campers will do a lot of walking. Counselors purposely avoid use of the Zoo trams throughout the summer, as crowds and lines get very long and can cut into the number of activities we can complete in a camp day. Umbrellas and raincoats are acceptable; however your child is responsible for carrying those items 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.
 - **DO** remember to send your child with sunscreen and insect repellent if necessary. The Zoo cannot provide these items.
 - **DO** remember to have your child wear their Summer Day Camp t-shirt each and every day of camp. The Zoo can be a crowded place and identical t-shirts are the easiest way to help counselors keep the group together.
 - **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.
 - **DO** send your child with a facial covering if you would like them to wear one. Facial coverings are optional for all summer day campers.
 - **DON'T** send your child to camp 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
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Participant Health Records

All campers must have a completed Waiver Packet 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 on all pages. **Mail or email forms to the Zoo prior to the start of camp.**

Mail: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Attn: Program Registration, 3900 Wildlife Way, Cleveland, OH 44109
Email: programregistration@clevelandmetroparks.com

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
- 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 Summer Day 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 Summer Day 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.

