Denver Zoo Safari Camps may include the following types of activities: up-close animal encounters, zoo exploration, engineering-build challenges, games, experiences such as train and carousel rides, City Park field trips, science experiences, behind-the-scenes tours, encounters with zookeepers and other zoo staff, and more!

Our Camp informal education philosophy is based on best practices in education, including a focus on inquiry-based learning and opportunities to connect with animals and nature. That means guiding questions that campers will try to solve throughout the day, a section after lunch for more self-directed learning, and time for “further exploration.” (This time is something that is determined more by the students as they decide how they would like to expand upon what they’ve done that day. This may include exploring more of the zoo, playing games, exploring animal pelts and skulls (“biofacts”), or testing prototypes of projects they’ve been building). Computers or tablets allow instructors to access additional information, capture photos or videos on the fly, and help kids discover answers on their own to questions that arise throughout the course of a day.

**RESERVATION POLICIES**

**Ages and Abilities Accepted**
Camper of all ability levels are welcome to register for Safari Camp. We work with parents to make camp accessible to children with varying needs, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and provide reasonable accommodations to our programs to make them accessible.

**Summer Safari**
Full-Day camps are offered for children entering Kindergarten - 8th Grade of the upcoming fall school year (Campers must turn 5 by Oct 15th).

**Fall, Winter, and Spring Mini-Camps**
Full-Day camps are offered for children Kindergarten - 5th Grade of the current school year (Campers must turn 5 on or before their start date).

**Procedure for Registration**
Parents/Guardians must register their own child to participate in Safari Camp and use their own Denver Zoo Membership Account to receive the Safari Camp Membership Discount. There is a 2-step registration process: Step 1 is purchasing a camper’s spot. Step 2 is completing the following information in the Camp Portal (Campers cannot attend until the Step 2 is complete):

- Contact details including home and work addresses, and phone numbers for the parent/guardian (and any additional parent)
- Camper’s full name, birth date, grade, and medical history
- Name, address, and phone number of camper’s physician, dentist, and preferred hospital
- Name, address, and phone number of two emergency contacts
- Name, address, and phone number of any additional people (must be over 18) who are authorized to pick up camper

Camper is not allowed to attend more than one camp with the same title. This prevents children from attending camp where they repeat the same curriculum and activities. If campers register for a duplicate class, they are subject to cancellation or transfer fees [see below].

**Fees and Cancellation Policy**
Full payment is due at time of registration. A full refund is given if Denver Zoo cancels a camp for any reason.

**Summer Safari**
Registrations canceled or rescheduled for reasons unrelated to changing state or municipality health guidelines for COVID-19, at least 15 business days before the date of camp, incur accommodation fees of $50 each. **Within 14 business days, all sales are final.” Cancellations must be requested via email to guestcare@denverzoo.org.

**Fall, Winter, and Spring Safari Mini-Camp**
Registrations canceled or rescheduled for reasons unrelated to changing state or municipality health guidelines for COVID-19, at least 5 business days before the date of camp incur accommodation fees of $10 each. **Within 4 business days, all sales are final.” Cancellations must be requested via email to guestcare@denverzoo.org.

**Medication Administration Permission Form**
If your child requires emergency, prescription, or over-the-counter medication during camp, a parent/guardian and the child’s physician must complete and submit a Medication Administration Permission Form two weeks prior to the start of the child’s camp session. Any medication for a chronic illness such as asthma, allergies, or diabetes must be accompanied by a Care Plan written and signed by the child’s physician. Your camper(s) will not be permitted into camp until all information is filled out correctly and completely. Upon review of your camper’s forms, it may be necessary to meet with the parent/guardian to develop a Health Plan.
GENERAL INFORMATION

Summer Safari Camps are five-day/week-long camps offered June through August (four-day weeks are offered June 1-4 in recognition of Memorial Day, and July 6-9 in recognition of Independence Day). Safari Mini-Camps are 1-3 day camps offered during fall, winter, and spring breaks. See full schedule on our website. Camps run from 9:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

Please arrive on time for your child’s camp. Arriving after camp begins could result in missed tours, animal encounters, or other missed activities as well as late arrival fees.

Daily Participant Car-Side Drop-off

During Safari Mini-Camp, Drop-off will take place car-side from 8:45-9:15 A.M.
During Summer Safari, Drop-off will take place car-side at the following times, depending on grade level:

- 8:30-8:45 A.M. -- 6-8th Grade + 4-5th Grade
- 8:45-9:00 A.M. -- 2-3rd Grade
- 9:00-9:15 A.M. -- K-1st Grade

Please follow these instructions:
1. Pull into the Zoo’s main entrance driveway and follow signs to Drop-off.
2. Place printed pass or piece of paper with (each) camper’s full name, grade, and camp title on the right side of the dashboard.
3. During drop-off, adults will verify a series of health screening questions; campers will have their temperature taken. Those who answer “yes” to any screening questions, exhibit signs of illness, and/or have a temperature above 100°F will be sent home immediately, including their siblings, household members, and all others in their car.
4. Once checked in, the camper will be escorted to their camp group.

Carpooling is not recommended, except for campers living together in the same household.

If parents/guardians have additional campers to drop off in varying time windows, please drop off together in the earlier option. (E.g., if you have a 2nd grader and a 4th grader, please drop off both between 8:30-8:45 A.M.)

Late arrivals should proceed to the Zoo’s Welcome Center at the main entrance to complete check-in procedures. A late arrival accommodation fee will be collected for each child.

Daily Participant Car-Side Pick-up

During Safari Mini-Camp, Pick-up will take place car-side from 3:45-4:15 P.M.
During Summer Safari, Pick-up will take place car-side according to the following times:

- 3:45-4:00 P.M. -- 6-8th Grade + 4-5th Grade
- 4:00-4:15 P.M. -- 2-3rd Grade
- 4:15-4:30 P.M. -- K-1st Grade

Please follow these instructions:
1. Pull into the Zoo’s main entrance driveway and follow signs to Pick-up.
2. Place printed pass or piece of paper with (each) camper’s full name, grade, and camp title on the right side of the dashboard.
3. Have a photo ID ready.
4. Camp administrators will escort camper to car and verify ID prior to checking out.

Carpooling is not recommended, except for campers living together in the same household.

If parents/guardians have additional campers to pick up in varying time windows, please pick up together in the later option. (E.g., if you have a 2nd grader and a 4th grader, please pick up both between 4:00-4:15 P.M.)

Campers will only be released to those persons whom parents/guardians have added to the authorized pick-up list. Photo ID is REQUIRED EVERY DAY at pick-up. If a non-authorized person attempts to pick up a camper, Camp staff will attempt to contact guardians at all numbers provided. If no contact is made, the person will be asked to wait until confirmation is secured from parents/guardians. In circumstances where the person attempting to have the child released is behaving aggressively or inappropriately, they will be referred to Denver Zoo security, and police may be called.
Safari Camp: Summer Safari & Safari Mini-Camp  
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It is mandatory that all children be picked up by 4:30 P.M. Parents/guardians are asked to notify Camp Staff if they are running late. After 4:30 P.M., parents/guardians, emergency contacts, and authorized pick-ups will be notified that the child needs to be picked up as soon as possible, and an accommodation fee of $10 will be charged every 15 minutes after 4:30 P.M. until they are picked up. A camp staff member will supervise the camper until an authorized pick-up person arrives. If no one can be contacted by 5:30 P.M., the Denver Police Department will be contacted and custody of the child will move to the Denver Police Department.

Camper Absences
As Safari Camp programs are a recreational and elective activity, parents/guardians may choose to stop sending their child to camp at any time. Parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with camp instructors and administrators about planned or unplanned absences, but it is not required. Refunds will not be issued for unattended days. [For more information, see Fees and Cancellation Policy, above.]

Late Arrival/Early Pick-up
At any time of the day, campers may be anywhere within the 80-acre Zoo property (or on a field trip to City Park), making late arrivals and early departures complicated and resulting in an accommodation fee.

Accommodation Fees:
- Dropping off after camp start time $5/instance/camper
- Picking up before camp end time $5/instance/camper
- Children not picked by 4:30 P.M. $10/every 15 minutes late

If a camper arrives late and their group is out within the Zoo or in City Park, Camp Administrative Staff will check in the camper, supervise them, and take them to meet their group. If a camper needs to leave early while their group is out within the Zoo or in City Park, an Administrative Staff Member will pick the camper up from their group, supervise them, and check the camper out to their parent/guardian/authorized pick-up. Authorized pick-ups will not be allowed to drop off late campers directly to their groups, nor pick-up campers early directly from their groups.

What to Bring
- Lunch + 2 snacks
- Backpack
- Face Mask *cloth or disposable masks. (N95 respirators or surgical masks should NOT be sent with campers)
- Water bottle
- Basic craft supplies (Scissors, colored pencils, markers, glue)
- Apply sunscreen and dress for the weather and lots of walking: a hat and athletic shoes are encouraged (no flip-flops!)
- Summer only: Safari camp T-Shirt EVERYDAY (issued first day of camp)

What NOT to Bring
Money, jewelry, toys, stuffed animals, games, collectables, and electronic devices not limited to mp3 players, tablets, video games, GoPro’s, etc.
Denver Zoo is not responsible for any lost or stolen items. Should a child bring a valuable item with them to camp, they will be told to keep it in their backpack and Camp staff will connect with the parent/guardian to request that the child not bring it to camp again. Please note that valuables lost in the Zoo can be harmful to our animals, or even destroyed by animals or water exhibits, or otherwise lost permanently. Balloons and plastic straws are not allowed in the Zoo due to harm they may cause to animals.

Face Masks
In adherence to city and county of Denver health orders regarding face mask use and CDPHE camp operations guidelines, children are required to wear a mask at all times except while eating, drinking, or during socially distanced outdoor mask breaks. Cloth masks, bandanas, or disposable masks are recommended. N95 respirators and surgical masks should not be sent with campers, as they may cause additional hazards to the individual wearing them.

Meals and Snacks
Campers are required to bring a packed lunch, as well as a morning and afternoon snack, each day – it is okay if these snacks are from a portion of their packed lunch. Heating and refrigeration are not available. Peanut-free lunches and snacks are encouraged, and sharing food is not allowed. If weather and COVID guidelines permit, campers eat lunch and snacks outside. Campers without a snack will be provided apple sauce (ingredients listed below).
Mott’s Unsweetened Applesauce: APPLES, WATER, ASCORBIC ACID VITAMIN C.
Safari Camp: Summer Safari & Safari Mini-Camp
Policies and Procedures

Inclement Weather
Denver Zoo Safari Mini-Camp follows Colorado's COVID-19 Dial Framework and operates as follows:

- **Red, and Orange Levels**: Safari Camp operates as an outdoor camp with warm-up zones throughout campus when Accuweather forecasts the "RealFeel" temperature at 32 degrees or above by 10:00 AM.
- **Yellow, Blue, and Green Levels**: Safari Camp operates both outdoors and indoors when Accuweather forecasts the "RealFeel" temperature at 20 degrees or above by 10:00 AM; if temperature is below threshold, camp may still run as scheduled if a significant warm-up is forecast by noon.

Please ensure your camper is dressed and prepared for the weather and elements. In the rare event that severe weather is expected to interfere with scheduled programming, Denver Zoo will contact the registering parent/guardian via email regarding delayed starts, early closures, and/or full day closures. Winter weather closures will also be noted on the Denver Zoo homepage.

Technology Usage during Camp
Campers, especially those in 4th-8th grade camps, may be encouraged to use technology to assist in their exploration of the Zoo, curricula topics, or Questions of the Day. This may include video or picture-taking, looking up animal photos or facts online, visiting animal-information websites, virtual or augmented reality, citizen science websites or applications, and/or the use of laptops, smartphones, or tablets. Through registration for Safari Camp, parents/guardians authorize and affirm permission for their child’s technology usage during camp, as well as other camp activities. Campers may not view or show media containing explicit language or topics. Though limited in scope, occasional short videos or other media may be used during camp to help campers explore a topic related to camp curricula. Screen time introduced by instructors or administrators will be kept to a minimum. Usage of internet or media by campers will be strictly monitored by instructors, and may be disallowed or restricted at any time, including the possibility of instructors taking away phones, tablets, or other personal devices until the end of the camp day. Campers are expected to use online media for the purposes of exploring camp topics only. Campers will be expected not to use media during snack or meal times, unless during a planned activity or special occasion. Children using personal adaptive equipment or assistive technology will be exempt from this rule, and will have no restrictions on usage times.

Summer Safari Field Trips to City Park
During Summer Safari some camp groups may have a designated day and time to take a field trip to the City Park fountains and/or the City Park box canyon and meadow (please see your camper’s Daily Schedule for more information). These are walking field trips outside of the Zoo, and do not require transportation by car or bus. Through registration for Safari Camp, parents/guardians authorize and affirm permission for their child’s participation in these field trips, as well as other camp activities. Camp Instructors are responsible for the safety of each camper in their group, and we designate Camp Support Staff to oversee all field trips to City Park. Camp Support Staff pay close attention to the weather prior to each group departing, and if extreme weather conditions are expected, field trips will be cancelled or rescheduled.

Lost and Found
Lost items will be taken to the Zoo’s main Lost and Found and you will need to contact the Zoo Lost and Found directly at 303-376-4805, or on the Denver Zoo website’s Lost and Found page.

Health Care at Safari Camp

Storing and Administering Medications
A contracted Child Care Health Consultant Nurse oversees health care policies and procedures, as well as training and delegation of all medication on site for Safari Camp. When the consulting nurse is not on site to administer medication, a trained and delegated Denver Zoo staff administers medications. We do not stock any over-the-counter medication like Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Benadryl, etc.

In order to store and administer ANY medication (emergency, prescription, or over-the-counter) to campers, we must receive a Medication Administration Permission Form completed by a parent/guardian and the child’s physician two weeks prior to the start of the child’s camp session. Any medication for a chronic illness such as asthma, allergies, or diabetes must be accompanied by a Care Plan written and signed by the child’s physician. **Medication must be provided in the original labeled bottle or container.** Prescription medicine containers must bear the original pharmacy label that shows the prescription number, date filled, name of medication, dosage, physician’s name, child’s name, and directions for administering. Over-the-counter medication must be clearly labeled with child’s first and last name. All medications (with the exception of emergency
medication like Epi-Pens, Inhalers, etc.) will be locked and dispensed at the appropriate time, according to instructions written and signed by the Health Care Provider.

Illness, Accidents, and Injuries
Camp Instructors and Administrative Staff, as well as Denver Zoo Security staff, are certified in First Aid and CPR and are able to address emergencies as they occur. Parents/Guardians will be notified immediately of any accident or injury requiring medical treatment beyond a Band-Aid/Ice Pack. If needed, 911 will be called and paramedics will determine if transport to a hospital is necessary. If so, a Denver Zoo staff member will go to the hospital until a parent arrives.

If a child becomes ill while at camp, they will rest away from their camp group, under the supervision of Administrative Staff, and parents/guardians will be notified. If the child has a fever of 100°F or above, exhibits signs of illness, or does not feel well enough to take part in normal activities, parents/guardians will be asked to leave home or work immediately to pick-up the child.

Illness Policy and Daily Health Screening
Denver Zoo recommends parents refer to the Illness Policy developed by Children’s Hospital Colorado – How Sick is Too Sick? to assist in determining when it is appropriate to keep a child home from camp (specific COVID-19 symptoms can be found HERE). In addition, parents/guardians should keep their child home if they answer “yes” to any Health Screening Questions:

1. In the past 48 hours, has your camper, or others in the household, experienced the following symptoms:
   - Fever or chills
   - Sore Throat
   - Cough
   - Shortness of breath or difficult breathing
   - Headache
   - New loss of taste or smell
   - Diarrhea or vomiting
2. In the past 14 days, has your camper, or others in the household, tested positive for COVID-19?
3. In the past 14 days, has your camper, or others in their household, knowingly been in close contact with anyone who has had a confirmed case of COVID-19?

During each day of drop-off, adults will verify health screening questions; campers will have their temperature taken. Those who answer “yes” to any screening questions, exhibit signs of illness, and/or have a temperature above 100°F will be sent home immediately, including their siblings, household members, and all others in car.

If a camper is diagnosed with a communicable disease (including, but not limited to: COVID-19, hepatitis, measles, mumps, meningitis, diphtheria, rubella, salmonella, tuberculosis, giardia, or shigella) while attending or soon after attending, we ask that parents notify us immediately. If further action is necessary, the Camp Coordinator will notify the local Health Department, staff members, and all parents of the participants enrolled at the site. The camper’s confidentiality will be maintained.

Accommodations for Special Needs
If your child has any special needs we should be aware of, please contact us. We are more than happy to discuss all options available to you and your child. If your child needs to attend camp with their full-time care provider, special arrangements can be made, but must be scheduled in advance for security purposes. After undergoing a background check, the adult caregiver may attend at no charge. A background check can take up to 30 days to process, so please give us as much advance notice as possible.

Sunscreen
We provide Rocky Mountain Sunscreen: SPF 30, Oxybenzone-Free, Water Resistant, and Fragrance-Free. You are welcome to pack an alternative, if desired (please label with first and last name). There is a sunscreen station within the Gates Education Center (as well as the Primate Panorama Classrooms during Summer Safari), for campers to re-apply during the day. We do not directly apply sunscreen to any camper, but help them by guiding them to apply it themselves.
Safari Camp: Summer Safari & Safari Mini-Camp

Policies and Procedures

Camper Personal Hygiene
Each child is instructed to wash their hands with soap and water upon arrival, before snacks/lunch, and after using toilet facilities, and blowing their noses, coughing, or sneezing. In addition, 70-80% alcohol-based hand sanitizer is available in each classroom and while out in the Zoo, and utilized throughout the day. You are welcome to pack an alternative, if desired (please label with first and last name). Participants must be toilet trained prior to attending. We stock extra shorts/pants/shirts/underwear in case a child needs to change due to soiled clothes.

COVID-19 Operating Guidelines
Safari Camp follows Colorado’s COVID-19 Dial Framework and operates under state and local guidelines.

Red and Orange Levels: Safari Camp operates as an outdoor camp. On Zoo exploration, campers will travel throughout the zoo, including exhibit buildings, and complete all activities outdoors. In the case of extreme temperature, campers may utilize designated warm-up/cool-off zones as needed. Camp groups will not exceed 10 campers and 1 instructor.

Yellow, Blue, Green Levels: Safari Camp, including all activities, operates both indoors and outdoors. Capacity varies per level:
- **Yellow:** Camp groups will not exceed 20 campers and 2 instructors; divided into 2 cohorts of 10 campers and 1 instructor for zoo exploration and indoor activities. Indoor spaces are restricted to 1 cohort at any time.
- **Blue:** Camp groups will not exceed 20 campers and 2 instructors; divided into 2 cohorts of 10 campers and 1 instructor for zoo exploration.
- **Green:** Camp groups of 20-30 campers and 2-3 instructors; divided into 2-3 cohorts of 10 campers and 1 instructor for zoo exploration.

*These parameters are subject to change based on state and local guidelines.*

Social Distancing Measures
- Cohorts remain together for the entirety of the camp program. Groups will be kept separate from one another.
- Camp cohorts will maintain a 6 ft. physical distance from Zoo guests and other groups out in the Zoo on exploration.
- Campers and staff will maintain 6 ft. physical distance from each other during snack/lunch, when indoors or traveling through exhibit buildings, and whenever possible outdoors. All activities will support distancing.

Supervision
There is a maximum staff to child ratio of 1 to 10. Experienced, trained adult instructors and volunteers will lead the group in activities, games, and tours. All staff and adult volunteers have undergone extensive background checks and are highly trained in Safari Camp programs and working with children. They are here to ensure a safe, fun, educational experience for your child.

A roster is generated for each camp group containing each camper’s name, grade, parent/guardian names, and authorized pick-ups. Campers are checked in/out daily via this roster by Camp Instructors and Administrative Staff. Instructors keep a head count of campers in their groups constantly. Classroom doors are secured at all times. Each camp has a daily schedule they follow, so that Administrative Staff know the Zoo areas where camp groups are expected to be at all times. During the busy summer season, Summer Safari T-Shirts are required for each camper, as they aid in keeping groups together while out in the Zoo.

In the rare event of a separated or lost camper, the instructor will call and alert security and a Camp Administrator immediately, with the name and description of the camper. Security will dispatch available personnel to assist, monitor the Zoo entrance/exit, and initiate a Zoo wide all-call. The missing camper’s group will remain in place in the Zoo with their instructor until the missing camper is located. The Learning & Engagement Department and other Administrative Staff will be notified and dispatched to assist, where needed. The Camp Coordinator will contact the missing camper’s parents, and Security will contact the Denver Police Department if needed. After the child is located, they will be reunited with their camp group, and the instructor will recount the situation to Camp Administrators for assessment of why the situation occurred.

Visitor Policy
For security and safety purposes, we do not allow visitors. Only adults that have passed a Denver Zoo background check can be with camp groups. If you are planning to spend the day at the Zoo, we have several restaurant/food stations located throughout the Zoo, as well as a large gift shop and coffee bar. If you decide to tour the Zoo, we ask that you tour different areas than your child’s camp group. This is to ensure that your participant...
can fully enjoy the benefits and social development of interacting with the other children in their camp. The added benefit for your child is learning to remain with their instructors and tour guides, which aids with our security precautions, in addition to helping your child learn important group skills. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

**Suspected Child Abuse**
Any incident of suspected child abuse or neglect will be reported immediately to the Colorado Department of Social Services, local authorities, and to the Denver Zoo Board of Directors.

**Additional questions, concerns, or suggestions?**
Please contact the Guest Care Center at 720-337-1400 or guestcare@denverzoo.org.
Expectation of behavior – Rules and expectations of behaviors will be discussed with your camper on a daily basis. Expectations include, but are not limited to:

- Respect for zoo animals (no chasing geese or peafowl, no climbing on enclosures or tapping on glass)
- Respect for fellow campers (keeping hands to themselves, no name calling or aggressive behavior)
- Respect for instructors (listening to directions, staying with the group at all times, staying positive)
- Respect for themselves (telling the instructor if they are experiencing problems with another camper, having fun!)
- All campers should feel safe both emotionally and physically. Physical, verbal, and relational bullying is not tolerated, and will be addressed immediately. Supervising staff will be informed, and each camper’s parents/caregivers will be contacted.

Discipline procedure – We will take the following steps to help resolve any issues:

- Instructor will speak to the camper about their behavior and remind them of our expectations.
- If the behavior continues, the child may be asked to sit out of activities or take quiet time until they can rejoin.
- At this time, if the behavior continues to be a problem or depending on the severity of the behavior, the instructor will refer the child to a Camp Administrator.
- Parents will receive written documentation of the behavior and depending on the severity of the behavior, receive a phone call from the Camp Coordinator to discuss a behavior plan.
- After these steps are taken, unresolved behavioral issues may lead to a caretaker being contacted and asked to pick-up the child.

Behavior management used – All Camp staff go through a variety of trainings and practice sessions to ensure that campers are safe, having fun, and learning.

- Expectations are reviewed with our campers and reinforced on a daily basis in a positive tone, and framed in a positive way.
- Positive behavior and attitudes are rewarded.
- Redirection of negative behaviors is used to prevent escalation.
- Campers are empowered to make good choices and problem solve so they can be successful.
- Physical or verbal punishment, or isolation will never be used. Withholding snacks or treats is not permitted.