



Safari Camps Policies and Procedures

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, field trips, 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 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

Campers 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 (*see full details in “Accommodations for Special Needs” section*).

Summer Safari

Full-Day camps are offered for children entering Kindergarten - Grade 8 in the upcoming fall school year (*campers must turn 5 by Oct 1*).

- Campers must be registered for the grade level they will enter in Fall 2023. All camp curricula are designed based on Colorado Academic Standards and NGSS with specific activities appropriate for each developmental stage. **Registering a camper for the wrong age/grade group will result in a dropped registration, or a minimum administrative fee of \$50 to transfer registration to the correct camp. Transfers are not guaranteed.**

Mini-Camps

Full-Day camps are offered for children currently in Kindergarten – Grade 5 (*campers must have turned 5 by Oct 1*).

- Campers must be registered for the grade level they are currently in as of the Mini Camp date. All camp curricula are designed based on Colorado Academic Standards and NGSS with specific activities appropriate for each developmental stage. **Registering a camper for the wrong age/grade group will result in a dropped registration, or a minimum administrative fee of \$50 to transfer the registration to the correct camp. Transfers are not guaranteed.**

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 early access. Registering for a camper other than your own child will result in dropped registration, or a minimum administrative fee of \$50 to transfer registration to the appropriate parent/caregiver account.

Campers are **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. **Registering campers for camps with the same title will result in dropped registrations.**

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 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



Safari Camps Policies and Procedures

Service and Accommodation Fees

Full payment is due at time of registration. A full refund is given if Denver Zoo cancels camp for any reason.

Summer Safari

- **Cancellation Policy:** All sales are final, unless the Zoo must cancel the program. Exceptions can be requested in the case of family medical emergencies, severe illness or for required quarantine due to COVID-19.
- **Accommodation Fees:** With advance notice, children may be dropped off or picked up during lunchtime (12:00–1:00 p.m.) at no charge, as campers are always in a pre-defined area during the lunch hour. At other times of the day, campers may be anywhere within the 80-acre Zoo property (or on a field trip), making late arrivals and early departures complicated, resulting in an \$5 accommodation fee.

Mini-Camps

- **Cancellation Policy:** All sales are final, unless the Zoo must cancel the program. Exceptions can be requested in the case of family medical emergencies, severe illness or for required quarantine due to COVID-19.
- **Accommodation Fees:** With advance notice, children may be dropped off or picked up during lunchtime (12:00–1:00 p.m.) at no charge, as campers are always in a pre-defined area during the lunch hour. At other times of the day, campers may be anywhere within the 80-acre Zoo property (or on a field trip), making late arrivals and early departures complicated, resulting in an \$5 accommodation fee.

Withdrawing Camp Registration

As Safari Camps are a recreational and elective activity, parents may choose to stop sending their child to camp at any time. Parents are encouraged to communicate with Camp Staff about planned or unplanned absences, but it is not required. If parents are not satisfied with the quality of a Safari Camp, they may request consideration for partial refunds by emailing SafariCamps@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](#) at least **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. [For more information, see Health Care at Safari Camp on pg. 4.] If at any point the Health Plan needs to change, an additional Medication Administration Permission Form will need to be completed by the child's physician.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Summer Safari Camps are five-day/week-long camps offered June through August (*A four-day week is offered in recognition of Independence Day. Camp does not occur on July 4 or the observed holiday.*). See full schedule on our [website](#). Mini-Camps, when available, are single-day camps offered seasonally in fall, winter, and/or spring. All 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, and late arrival fees.

Daily Participant Drop-off

- **Summer Safari** drop-off takes place at the following times, depending on grade level:
 - 8:45 - 9:00 a.m. – Grades 6-8 + 2-3
 - 9:00 - 9:15 a.m. – Grades 4-5 + K-1

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 second grader and a fourth grader, please drop-off both between 8:45-9:00 a.m.)



Safari Camps Policies and Procedures

- **Mini-Camp** drop-off occurs from 8:45 A.M. - 9:00 a.m.

Please follow these instructions for drop-off:

1. Park in the parking garage.
2. Drop-off is at your child's classroom in the Gates Center or in the tents just outside the Gates Center through the Special Programs Entrance, Gate 1. This entrance is located directly up the steps from the elevators on the Macaw level of the parking garage (second level).

Drop-off ends and the Special Programs Entrance closes at 9:15 a.m. for Summer Safari, and 9:00 a.m. for Mini-Camps. Late arrivals should proceed to the Zoo's Main Entrance to complete check-in procedures. A late arrival accommodation fee will be collected for each child.

Daily Participant Pickup

- **Summer Safari** pickup takes place at the following times, depending on grade level:
 - 3:45 - 4:00 p.m. – Grades 6-8 + 2-3
 - 4:00 - 4:15 p.m. – Grades 4-5 + K-1

If parents/guardians have additional campers to pick up in varying time windows, please pick up together in the earlier option. (E.g., if you have a second grader and a fourth grader, please pick up both between 3:45-4:00 p.m.)

- **Mini-Camp** pick-off occurs from 4:00 P.M. - 4:15 p.m. for all campers.

Please follow these instructions for pickup:

1. Park in the parking garage.
2. Pick-up is at your child's classroom in the Gates Center or in the tents just outside the Gates Center through the Special Programs Entrance, Gate 1. This entrance is located directly up the steps from the elevators on the Macaw level of the parking garage (second level).
3. A photo ID is required every day to pick up a child from camp.

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 pickup.** If a non-authorized person attempts to pick up a camper, Camp staff will attempt to contact parents/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.

It is mandatory that campers not registered for Late Care are picked up by 4:15 p.m. Parents/guardians are asked to notify Camp Staff if they are running late. After 4:15 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 4:15 p.m. until they are picked up. Camp Staff will supervise the camper until an authorized pick-up person arrives. If no one can be contacted by 6:00 p.m., the Denver Police Department will be contacted and custody of the child will move to the Denver Police Department.

Late Care

For an additional fee, a limited number of Late Care spots are available for Summer 2023 (Early Care is not available). **To participate, your child MUST be pre-registered to attend.** Late Care is NOT an extension of camp; all camp activities take place 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 a.m. Participants in Late Care will have free time, play games, do crafts, build with reusable materials, and watch movies. All movies are MPAA rated G or PG. Late Care occurs from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Please follow these instructions for Late Care pick-up:

1. Park in any available parking space.
2. Enter through the Zoo's Main Entrance between 4:15 and 5:30 p.m. Guest Services or Security staff will direct you to the Gates Education Center to complete the pick-up process.



Safari Camps Policies and Procedures

3. A photo ID is required every day to pick up a child from camp.

It is mandatory that campers registered for Late Care be picked up by 5:30 p.m. Parents are asked to please notify Camp Staff if running late. After 5:30 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 for every 15 minutes will be charged. If no one can be contacted by 6:00 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 Staff 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

With advance notice, children may be dropped off or picked up during lunchtime (12:00–1:00 p.m.) at no charge, as campers are always in a pre-defined area during the lunch hour. At other times of the day, campers may be anywhere within the 80-acre Zoo property (or on a field trip), making late arrivals and early departures complicated, 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 4:15 p.m. \$10 /every 15 minutes late

If a camper arrives late and their group is out within the Zoo or on a field trip, Camp 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 on a field trip, Camp Staff 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
- Water bottle
- Weather appropriate clothing and footwear.
 - Summer Safari: Camp issued t-shirt must be worn everyday camp. Campers will receive their camp shirt on Day 1. Flip flops are not recommended.

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.

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. Campers without a snack will be provided unsweetened applesauce: APPLES, WATER, ASCORBIC ACID.

Inclement Weather

Please ensure your camper is dressed and prepared for the weather and elements. In the rare event that severe weather (including extreme cold temperatures) 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](#).



Safari Camps Policies and Procedures

Technology Usage during Camp

Campers, especially those in Grades 4-8, 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.

Field Trips

Summer Safari Field Trips to City Park: Camp groups may have a designated day and time to take a field trip to the City Park H2O Odyssey 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. By registering 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, with additional Camp Staff in attendance to oversee all field trips. Field trips may be cancelled or rescheduled for reasons such as extreme weather, changing state or municipality health guidelines for COVID-19, etc.

Grades 6-8 Conservation Camps Field Trips: The 6-8 grade Conservation Camp will take a trip off-site to participate in conservation work in the Denver metro area one or two days of their camp week. If field trip location requires transportation, it is provided by bus or 15-passenger vehicles. Parents/Guardians are given more information about these field trips (including location, days, times, transportation safety policies, etc.) and sign a waiver for their child to participate, prior to their scheduled camp week. Camp Instructors are responsible for the safety of each camper in their group with additional Staff in attendance to oversee all field trips. Field trips may be cancelled or rescheduled for reasons such as extreme weather, changing state or municipality health guidelines for COVID-19, etc.

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. If at any point the Health Plan needs to change, an additional Medication Administration Permission Form will need to be completed 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*



Safari Camps Policies and Procedures

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 Staff and Denver Zoo Security, 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 and/or 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 Camp 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/guardians 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. Parents/guardians must screen children daily, prior to arriving at camp. Children cannot attend camp if they answer "yes" to any of the following COVID-19 Health Screening Questions and should follow [CDC guidelines](#) for testing and quarantine:

1. In the past 24 hours, has your camper 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 10 days, has your camper tested positive for COVID-19?

Dropping-off a child at camp affirms they are healthy and free of any signs, symptoms, or exposure of illnesses to the best of your knowledge. Daily health screening policies, along with all other COVID-19 related policies and procedures, are subject to change based on state and local guidelines.

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. Denver Zoo is required to notify the local Health Department, providing camper name and caregiver contact information. The Health Department may contact the caregiver for additional information. Staff members and caregivers of other participants may also be notified; camper's confidentiality will be maintained in those communications.

Accommodations for Special Needs

If your child has any special needs we should be aware of, please contact us. We happily work with parents/guardians to make Safari Camp accessible to children with varying needs in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities act; however, we are unable to provide one-on-one or supplementary services. 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 Center and in the Primate Panorama Classrooms 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 Camps 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

Denver Zoo follows local, state and federal guidelines when developing its programs, including the [CDC Community Level](#) prevention tool and [COVID-19 Guidance for Children's Day Camps](#). Additionally, Safari Camps collaborates with a contracted health professional to ensure best practice for campers' health and wellness. Denver Zoo may adjust COVID-19 related policies or requirements of staff, volunteers, campers and families and will communicate those updates accordingly. Guidelines are as follows:

Face Coverings: Face coverings are recommended indoors for staff, volunteers, and campers.

Group Size: Camp groups will be set as recommended by CDPHE for children's day camps as it relates to total group numbers, room capacities with social distancing, and/or any additional updates as they become available.

Physical Distancing: Children and staff will maintain physical distance as recommended by CDPHE for children's day camps, as much as possible.

Safety at Safari Camp

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 Staff. Instructors keep a head count of campers in their groups constantly. Classroom doors are always secured. Each camp has a daily schedule they follow, so that Camp Staff know the Zoo areas where camp groups are expected to be. 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 Camp Staff 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 Conservation Engagement and Learning Department and other Zoo staff will be notified and dispatched to assist, where needed. The missing camper's parents will be notified by phone 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 Staff for assessment of why the situation occurred. Parents will be notified via phone once the child has been located and reunited with their group and instructor.

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. 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.



Safari Camps Policies and Procedures

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, and Denver Zoo will conduct a thorough internal investigation.

Additional questions, concerns, or suggestions?

Please contact the Safari Camp Team at safaricamps@denverzoo.org or 720-337-1400.