General Camp Information 2022

Classes are divided up by the grade level which children will be entering in the fall. Each class level is labeled with a color. Some weeks have individual grades, while others have grade combos. Please read the descriptions carefully.

All grade levels will participate in the following experiences during Zoo Camp:

- Silly songs and fun crafts
- Interactive lessons and games
- Partial or full zoo tours
- Interaction with zookeepers
- Animal encounters with the zoo’s animal ambassadors
- The making and/or watching of a special enrichment for a resident animal
- Ride on the Zoo Train or Conservation Carousel

All camps are full day, starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m.

Summer Zoo Camp incorporates California Next Generation Science Standards
Red: Kindergarten
Each red camp is Monday – Friday, seven hours per day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a rest/quiet time in the afternoon, and it is designed for students entering Kindergarten in the fall.

Animals A-Z: June 6-10
A is for anteater, B is for bird, C is for…. Come find out which animals start with C through Z at zoo camp! Combine your love for animals with a lesson on letters during this fun week.

Storybook Safari: June 13-17
Animals have inspired some of our favorite stories over the years. Each day we will read a story together and then visit or meet the animals up close who inspired the story and characters! Our favorite books will come to life right before our eyes!

Critter Camouflage: June 27-July 1
Spots and stripes, shapes and colors! Camouflage comes in a variety of forms, and this week campers will learn why camouflage is important, and why animals have different camouflage for where they live.

Things with Wings: July 4-8
Are birds the only animals with wings? Are all wings covered in feathers? Are all wings used to fly? Find the answers to these questions and more this week as we learn all about wild winged animals!

Nature Play!: July 18-22
Come with us outside to play! This week is all about exploring nature, getting dirty, and having fun! We will encourage campers to literally dig into the world around them, engage their sense of wonder and discovery and develop connections to animals and the natural world. Come play with us!
Yellow: 1st Grade
Each yellow camp is Monday – Friday, seven hours a day, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is designed for students entering 1st grade in the fall. NOTE: There are also combo classes with 1st and 2nd grades together. See the GREEN section for more class options.

Very Hungry Zoo: June 13-17
Is it a carnivore, herbivore, or omnivore? How do animals eat with no teeth? Learn about all of the different ways animals eat, and the types of food they choose!

Primate Pals: July 18-22
Come monkey around the zoo with us! This week we will learn all about primates and find out the differences between monkeys, apes, and lemurs once and for all.

Orange: 2nd Grade
Each orange camp is Monday – Friday, seven hours a day, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is designed for students entering 2nd grade in the fall. NOTE: There are also combo classes with 1st and 2nd grades together. See the GREEN section for more class options.

Mythbusters: June 13-17
There are many myths in the animal world. People say owls can turn their heads all the way around and that bats are blind. Do you think these are true? Join us to investigate these myths and more!

Gator-ific: July 18-22
Join us this week to learn all things alligator! We will celebrate the zoo’s newest residents by learning all we can about American alligators and their relatives, making enrichments, and even meeting their keepers to get more inside info!
Green: 1st and 2nd Grade
Each green camp is Monday – Friday, seven hours a day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is designed for students entering 1st or 2nd grade in the fall.

Raptor Power: June 6-10
Have you ever seen a hawk's talons or the beak of an owl up close? Fly into camp this week to discover the amazing raptors here at the zoo, while studying and comparing them to some famous prehistoric raptors!

Colors of the Wild: June 27-July 1
This camp will focus on the colors all around us in the natural world. We often think of green leaves, but what about the yellow veins or purple and red leaves in fall? A red-tailed hawk is also brown, white, tan and more. There are so many colors around to inspire us here in the zoo!

For Pet’s Sake: July 4-July 8
If you have a pet at home, or are hoping to get one, this is the class for you! We will learn all about being a responsible pet parent as well as which animals do and do not make good pets. During the week you will be able to take home some ideas about enrichment, training, and treats for your own pet!

Eco-Explorers: July 25-29
Learn to explore the world through an ecologist’s point of view this week. Come explore the zoo, fall in love with the animals and find out how we can help them and their habitats.
**Teal: 3rd grade**
Each teal camp is Monday – Friday, seven hours a day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is designed for students entering 3rd grade in the fall. NOTE: There are also combo classes with 3rd and 4th grades together. See the BLUE section for more class options.

**Buggin’ Out: June 20-24**
This week is all about bugs! What makes an insect, an insect? What is their life cycle? How do they live? Who eats them? **Special guest star:** Sam from Sacramento State University and his LIVE insect and arthropod collection!

**Dirty Jobs: July 11-15**
There are a lot of dirty jobs in the wild, whether it be eating dead animals or covering yourself in muck for protection. Find out who in the animal kingdom has the dirtiest jobs, and why they are very important!

**Silver: 4th Grade**
Each silver camp is Monday – Friday, seven hours a day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is designed for students entering 4th grade in the fall. NOTE: There are also combo classes with 3rd and 4th grades together. See the BLUE section for more class options.

**Creepy Crawlers: June 20-24**
This week is all about bugs! What makes an insect, an insect? What is their life cycle? How do they live? Who eats them? **Special guest star:** Scientist Sam from Sacramento State University and his LIVE insect and arthropod collection!

**Zoo Tube: July 11-15**
A big part of what we do here at the zoo is interpreting, or teaching, about animals to the general public, both in person and online! Campers will step in front of the camera this week to create fun and creative videos here at the zoo! We will write scripts, practice public speaking, and film videos to share what we love about the zoo, and animals, with others. This camp class will have a private screening of their video to see their hard work in action!

*Note- video will be posted to the Zoo’s Youtube page PRIVATELY, so that only approved email addresses will be able to access it. The email associated with your child’s camp registration will be added to this list so that you may view it with your camper after they have completed their camp week.*
Blue: 3rd and 4th Grade
Each blue camp is Monday – Friday, seven hours a day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is designed for students entering 3rd or 4th grade in the fall.

From Myth to Reality: June 6-10
Humans often tell stories of amazing creatures like dragons, centaurs and merpeople. Although these creatures are mythical, their origins are based in reality. Campers this week will learn about the animals at the root of some of these mythical creatures and will also get creative in inventing their own mythical creature!

Leaders of the Pack: June 27-July 1
Who’s the boss? Find out which animal groups have a leader, and what it takes to fill that role. Is there a benefit to having a pack leader? Campers will explore different social groups of animals and the benefits of having a pack leader or not.

Survivor: Zoo Edition: July 4-8
To survive in the wild animals must outwit their predators and outlast others of their species. Explore the world of animal survival this week while outplaying fellow campers in physical and mental challenges!

Animal Olympics: July 25-29
Join us for our own Olympics here at the zoo! This exciting week will be filled with animal competitions as well as human ones, and activities to learn more about awesome athletic animals here at the zoo!
**Purple: 5th and 6th Grade**
Each purple camp is Monday – Friday, seven hours a day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is designed for students entering 5th or 6th grade in the fall.

**It’s Kind of a Bug Deal: June 20-24**
This week is all about bugs! What makes an insect, an insect? What is their life cycle? How do they live? Who eats them? Campers will learn exactly what they need and what makes them special with the help of our special guest star: Scientist Sam from Sacramento State University and his LIVE insect and arthropod collection!

**Wildlife Conservation: July 11-15**
The habitats for many of the amazing animals on our planet are in danger. Take on the role of a wildlife biologist and research what we can do to conserve the Earth's resources at home and around the world. Observe endangered animals here at the zoo and learn how we can work to protect them in the wild! Featuring a LIVE talk with Monica Bond from the Wild Nature Institute, all the way from TANZANIA!! Learn about how her important work helps to save giraffes in Africa.

**ZSI: Zoo Scene Investigator: July 25-29**
Grab your crime scene tape and become a Zoo Scene Investigator! Use your knowledge of zoo animals and observational skills to find the hidden clues and crack the code of an unsolved zoo mystery!