



Summer Zoo Camp

AGES 3-17

June 26-August 25, 2023

Choose from nine fun-filled weeks of hands-on activities, games, crafts and animal encounters.

SPACES FILL QUICKLY - ACT FAST!



There's lots to see in 2023!

Explore all the wonders of the animal world and beyond in one of the most exciting and interesting places possible, the zoo! Explore, observe, design, create, and build in a learning experience beyond your imagination. At the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics has never been more fun!

Most camp sessions run from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Before and After Care available and runs from 8-9 a.m. and 4-5 p.m.

Exceptions are noted where applicable



Register online at bit.ly/RGZCamps

or scan



Summer Zoo Camp Schedule:

AGES 3-11

Jr. Vet Week (June 27-July 1)

Available half-day sessions for ages 3-5 and full-day sessions for ages 5-9

Creative Creatures Week (July 3- July 7)

Available half-day sessions for ages 3-5 and full-day sessions for ages 5-11

*Please note due to the 4th of July holiday, there is no class on Tuesday

Wild World Week (July 10- July 14)

Available half-day sessions for ages 3-5 and full-day sessions for ages 5-9.

Animal Myths & Legends Week (July 17- July 21)

Available half-day sessions for ages 3-5 and full-day sessions for ages 6-11.

Zooper-Heroes Week (July 24- July 28)

Available half-day sessions for ages 3-5 and full-day sessions for ages 6-11.

Animals in Motion Week (July 31- August 3)

Available half-day sessions for ages 3-5 and full-day sessions for ages 5-9.

*Please note due to the Brew at the Zoo, there is no class on Friday

Out of this World Week (August 7- August 11)

Available half-day sessions for ages 3-5 and full-day sessions for ages 6-11.

Jr. Vet Week (August 14- August 18)

Available half-day sessions for ages 3-5 and full-day sessions for ages 5-9.

ZSI Week (August 21- August 25)

Available full-day sessions for ages 6-11.

AGES 12 AND UP (JR. ZOOKEEPERS)

Jr. Zookeepers

Did you know that most of the zookeepers who work here started their careers with domestic animals? Now you can, too! The skills learned in the contact barn working with animals such as goats and chickens apply across all departments in the zoo, from eels to elephants! Campers will spend their week in the contact barn getting their hands dirty through general animal husbandry activities, trying out their training and enrichment skills, and interacting with the public daily, just like every zookeeper here does! This camp is a work experience and campers should expect to get dirty, hot, sweaty, and smelly as they face the challenges of being a zookeeper. This camp is specially designed for the camper with an animal-related career in mind and requires a negative TB test result within 1 year of the start of the camp session.

This camp begins at 8 a.m. and is offered the following weeks:

July 24- July 28

July 31- August 3

***Please note due to the Brew at the Zoo,**

there is no class on Friday

August 7- August 11

August 14- August 18

Jr. Zookeepers 2.0

As a continuation of the Jr. Zookeeper experience, campers will further explore this fulfilling animal-related career. This camp begins at 8 a.m.

August 14-18 only!

**This program is by application or invitation only. Invitation extended to participants in prior Jr. Zookeeper program at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Application open to individuals with, but not limited to, prior internship, shadowing, or animal handling experience at another zoo, aquarium, farm or participation in other programs such as the 4H Club. High school students with relative interest and no prior experience will also be considered. Subject to review approval by camp director.*

AGES 14 AND UP ZOO CREW

Want to be a camp counselor some day? Love working with children? Our Counselor in Training (CIT) program will give you extensive experience in the organization of camp programs, teamwork, and group management. CITs assist in creating a positive summer camp experience for campers (ages 3-11) by encouraging participation, modeling zoo camp expectations, and assisting campers with skills during activities or crafts - All while learning important leadership and communication skills!

This camp begins at 8 a.m.

Camp Pricing

Members receive a 7% discount on all camp sessions by using the discount code **RGZMember2023**

Half Day (Ages 3-5) \$175

Week 2 & Week 6 Exceptions \$145

Full Day (Ages *5&6, 6&7, 8&9, 10&11) \$285

Week 2 & Week 6 Exceptions \$235

**Children five years of age may attend full-day camp weeks 1, 2, 3, 6 & 8 if they attended full-day school in 2022-2023.*

Jr. Zookeeper Camp (Ages 12-17) \$450

Week 6 Exceptions \$360

Zoo Crew (Ages 14-17) \$285

Week 2 & Week 6 Exceptions \$235

Need help navigating our new camp management and registration system? Come in person for one-on-one assistance:

Member Registration Assistance:

February 1 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Non-Member Registration Assistance:

February 15 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

For questions, please contact the Education department at (315) 435-8511 x8559 or email zoocamp@rosamondgiffordzoo.org.



Registration Information

Online registration begins at:

9 a.m. February 1
Members

9 a.m. February 15
Non-members



Register online at bit.ly/RGZCamps or scan the QR code to find out instantly if your camper is placed into the camp he/she wants!

To make this process as fair as possible, we do not accept phone or in-person registrations.

MEMBERS:
Your membership account number is required to receive your member discount.

Membership Status Questions?
Contact Membership department at (315) 435-8511 x8537.

Camp Registration Questions?
Contact the Education department at (315) 435-8511 x8559.

What can I expect with the camp management system?

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo utilizes a camp software system that streamlines and improves the registration process, record keeping, attendance and safety and wellness of your child(ren). All personal, emergency, and medical information entered is kept securely and immediately accessible to camp staff, increasing our ability to perform to the highest quality. You can even sign up for a payment plan with a qualifying deposit at no extra cost! Parents will be able to purchase items such as additional shirts, hats and water bottles as well as purchase meal plans! Education staff will be available to assist with learning and manipulating the system.

Members: Please make sure your membership is up to date prior to February 1. A membership discount code will be provided to members prior to the registration date. You will need your membership number for verification prior to registration to receive the discount. Please note that the participant must be covered under the membership account number to receive the discount. If non-members utilize the membership discount and membership registration period, you will be refunded and placed on the waitlist to be contacted when non-member registration begins. Call membership at (315) 435-8511 x8537 for any questions or concerns related to your membership account or to sign up for a membership.

What if I want to mail in my registration?

Mail-in registrations will no longer be accepted or processed. Please contact the Education department at (315) 435-8511 x8559 for assistance with registering online for the best possible service and experience.

Can I register more than one child?

Yes! Registering multiple children for sessions is easy in our online system!

Can I register my child for an 'older' or 'younger' class?

As educators, we feel that campers can maximize their Zoo Camp experience by interacting with peers of their own age level. All sessions are designed to offer hands-on learning that is age appropriate. The registration

system will only show you the age-appropriate options available for your child. If there is no availability for your child for sessions in their age group, you can be placed on a waitlist through the registration system. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis as space becomes available. Exemptions to the age requirement can be made only if space becomes available closer to the start of the camp week and the waitlist for that session has been exhausted. Please contact the Zoo Camp director with any questions or concerns.

Will my child be with friends or relatives?

There will be circumstances that require us to split up age groups. We are committed to giving your child the best possible experience and will make every accommodation when possible. Requests need to be made in advance during the registration process and must be age appropriate. Please note that we cannot make group changes after camp has begun.

My child requires an aide. Can they attend camp?

Yes! One-on-one aides are welcome to attend! Please contact the zoo camp director about this and any other special needs your child may have to make the camp experience the best it can be!

What if the week I want is filled?

You will have the opportunity to be added to the wait list during the registration process. If space becomes available during the waiting period, we will notify all parties on the wait list in the order received. You can opt to be removed from a wait list at any time.

Before and After Care is available for children who need to arrive early or be picked up late.

Before and After Care may include games or quiet reading and is not part of the normal zoo curriculum. Before Care runs 8-9 a.m. and After Care runs 4-5 p.m. You may register your camper for one or both sessions. Cost is \$50 per week per camper for either session; \$75 per week per camper for both sessions. Before and After Care is not offered per diem; you must register and pay for the full week. Pre-registration is required - no drop-ins. If you are late picking up your camper from the regular camp day or Before and After Care, late fees will apply.

Frequently Asked Questions

What can my child expect at Zoo Camp?

Your child will participate in fun, hands-on learning that explores every aspect of our zoo. We provide every child with a camp T-shirt and snacks each day. Each camper is required to wear the camp T-shirt daily to identify them as a zoo camper to the public and zoo staff. If you would like to purchase additional T-shirts, please order online during the registration process.

What are the qualifications of the Zoo Camp staff?

All staff members have experience working with children. Camp staff pass a criminal background check and receive extensive training before camp starts. The camp director and other zoo staff are trained in CPR and first aid.

What if my camper has special needs?

Please contact the camp director at zoocamp@rosamondgiffordzoo.org prior to registration to discuss your child's needs.

Will my child be able to go into exhibits with the animals?

We have a variety of outreach animals that your child may encounter such as snakes, insects and small mammals, and older campers may have the opportunity to go behind the scenes with keepers. For the safety of your children and our animals, contact with most animals is prohibited.

What are the policies regarding Covid-19?

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo will follow all protocols as mandated by the Onondaga County Health Department and indicated in the Reopening New York: Child Care and Day Camp Programs Guidelines.

Can I stay with my child during camp hours?

Zoo camp is about making new friends and memories, and parents at camp can inhibit a child's experience. Additionally, room capacities limit the number of people that can be in each room. Therefore, we ask that parents refrain from staying with children during camp.

What if my child needs medication?

Zoo Camp instructors are prohibited by law from administering any medication to children at Zoo Camp except for Epi-pens in an emergency; however, the camp health director can assist in self-administration. All medication and Epi-Pens must be received in the original container and be accompanied by written authorization by their doctor. Camp staff can assist with the application of sunscreen and insect repellent with written permission.

Does my child need to be potty trained?

Yes. We require that all children be potty trained to attend camp.

Why do I need my driver's license to pick up my child?

For your child's safety, we require that every person picking your child up from Zoo Camp be registered with our instructors. Before your child can leave zoo grounds, the designated person picking him/her up must provide a photo ID and check out your child.

What if I need to cancel?

If your child is enrolled and you must cancel for any reason, your registration fee is non-refundable unless a child on the waiting list can fill your space. In the event the cancelled space is filled, a \$25 processing fee will be deducted from your refund.

Will there be an option to purchase lunch for my child?

Catering at the Zoo will offer a weekly meal plan that can be purchased during registration or added later. Please note that last-minute and day-of requests may not be honored based on availability.



Please visit our camp page for the full menu at rosamondgiffordzoo.org/summer-zoo-camp.