



# Summer Zoo Camp

AGES 4-17

July 1-August 30, 2024

Choose from nine wild weeks that are full of hands-on projects, performances, games and interactive animal experiences.

Each week will end with a special celebration of learning and fun.

SPACES FILL QUICKLY – ACT FAST!



## There's even more in 2024!

Explore, observe, design, create, and build in a learning experience beyond your imagination. Each week, campers will engage in STEAM challenges, animal encounters, zoo tours, creating animal enrichment and practicing conservation skills that will bring out their inner zoo-per hero. At the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics have 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. Before and After Care, weekly meal plans, and camp merchandise can be purchased through our registration site by adding them under the Sessions and Options step.



Register online at [bit.ly/RGZCamps](https://bit.ly/RGZCamps)

or scan



## Summer Zoo Camp Schedule:

### AGES 4-11

Available morning half-day sessions for ages 4-5 and full-day sessions for ages 6-11

#### Beautiful Beasts:

##### Discovering the Artistry

Behind the Animal (July 1-3, July 5)

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

#### Zoo Scene Investigations:

##### Decoding Animal Evidence

(July 8-12)

#### Wet and Wild!: Expressing our Love of Everything Aquatic (July 15-19)

#### Dragons and Dinos:

##### Mythical and Prehistoric Creatures

(July 22-26)

#### Expedition: Strange Safari – Exploring the Weird and Wacky Creatures of the Animal Kingdom

(July 29-August 1)

\*Please note due to the Brew at the Zoo, there is no class on Friday, August 2

#### Legends and Lore:

##### Infamous Animals and their Stories

(August 5-9)

#### Wild by Design:

##### Bring out your Inner Animal Engineer

(August 12-16)

#### Animal Lover Career Club:

##### Bring out the Creature Hero in You

(August 19-23)

### AGES 12 AND UP (JR. ZOOKEEPERS)

#### Jr. Zookeepers

Did you know that most of the animal care staff who work here started their careers with domestic animals? Now you can, too! The skills learned by working with animals such as goats and chickens in the Contact Barn 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 one year of the start of the camp session.

This camp is offered the following weeks:

August 5- August 9  
August 12- August 16

#### Jr. Zookeepers 2.0

This camp advances from working with our contact barn animals to diving deep into incredible animal and environmental concepts, STEAM projects, and behind the scenes experiences with some of our most well-loved animals.

This camp is offered the following weeks:

August 19-23  
August 26-30

\*This program is by application or invitation only. Invitations are only extended to participants in prior Jr. Zookeeper programming at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Applications are open to individuals with, but not limited to, prior internship, shadowing, or animal handling experience at another zoo, aquarium, and/or 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. Invitations and Applications are subject to review and approval by the camp director.

## Camp Pricing

Members receive a 7% discount on all camp sessions.

Half Day (Ages 4-5) **\$185**

Week 1 & Week 5 Exceptions **\$155**

Full Day (Ages 6-11) **\$295**

Week 1 & Week 5 Exceptions **\$245**

Jr. Zookeeper Camp (Ages 12-17) **\$460**

Jr. Zookeepers 2.0 (Ages 14-17) **\$485**

Before or After Care **\$50 per week each**

20 oz Water Bottle **\$15**

Embroidered Cap **\$15**

Extra camp T-shirt **\$12**

### MEAL PLAN PRICING:

5 Day Weekly Meal Plan **\$52.50**

4 Day Weekly Meal Plan **\$42**

Need help navigating our new camp management and registration system?

For questions, please contact the Education department at (315) 435-8511 x8506 or email [zoocamp@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:zoocamp@rosamondgiffordzoo.org).



## Registration Information

### Online registration begins at:

**9 a.m. March 6**

#### Members

**9 a.m. March 20**

#### Non-members



Register online at [bit.ly/RGZCamps](https://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 x8506.

### **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 March 6.** 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 x8506 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! In addition we offer free one-on-one care provided by Arc of Onondaga. Please contact our zoo camp director with questions or Alyssa O'Bryan at [Alyssa.obryan@arcon.org](mailto:Alyssa.obryan@arcon.org) to arrange care.

### **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. 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. 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](mailto: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. 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.

### **Meal Plan Pricing:**

5 Day Weekly Meal Plan: \$52.50  
4 Day Weekly Meal Plan: \$42



Please visit our camp page for the full menu at [rosamondgiffordzoo.org/summer-zoo-camp](https://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/summer-zoo-camp).