

Alabama Gulf Coast Zoo Summer Camp 2024

Parent Information Packet

Welcome to Zoo Camp! We're so glad you and your Camper(s) have chosen to spend your summer with us. This packet and other emails you'll receive prior to your camp week should provide you with all the information you'll need to have a wonderful zoo adventure with us at the AGCZ. Feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Calendar of activities:

Our Campers are divided into 3 groups, based on the grades they just finished: Kindergarten/First grade, 2nd/3rd/4th grades, and 5th/6th grades. Each camp is Monday-Friday, 8:30am-3:30pm. Refer to the weekly email for weekly topics.

Camp Staff:

- Our Lead and Support Counselors are all carefully interviewed and vetted for leadership skills and enthusiasm for educational programming for children.
- Counselors in Training (C-I-Ts): Youth volunteers aged 14-17 who assist our Counselors with crafts and activities, line leaders, and game enthusiasts!
- Sonda Stokes, Education Program Manager
 - sonda@algulfoastzoo.org
 - Office: 251-256-7008, ext 126 (Cell: If I'm out in the park: 214-918-4946)

Parent Orientation:

- New Campers: Please be sure to read through this packet, the registration site, and any camp emails you receive to stay informed and up-to-date.
- Returning Campers: Please make sure you also read all camp info - there have been updates and changes from last summer!

Drop off/Pick up:

- Camp is 8:30am-3:30pm.
- Extended care is available at 7:30am and until 5:30pm and is required to be reserved at time of camp registration.
- Drop off is at the double gates on the west end of the parking lot, coming in to sign your child in with the Counselors is required.
- Pick up will be next to the main fountain, at the door in the back right. Photo ID is required. We must be notified in advance of anyone picking up a camper who is not on the approved emergency pick-up list.
- *Late fee: Children picked up after 5:30pm will incur a \$15 late fee. Please pick up Campers promptly.*

Lunch/Snacks:

- Send 1 lunch and 2 snacks daily along with a refillable water bottle. Lunch may occur at various shaded spaces throughout the park, so please be sure no refrigeration or heating is required. In case of others' allergies, please make nut-free choices.

What to Wear and Bring:

- Camp is an outdoor activity with breaks in shaded and indoor areas. For safety, please be sure to send your Camper wearing closed-toe shoes that cannot slip off. They may also bring a hat and sunglasses or a jacket and rain gear as needed. Label clothing and lunch gear. AGCZ is not responsible for lost or damaged belongings. To avoid misplacing items, toys, electronics or other lovelies from home will not be allowed. Do not send any money with your child.

Expected Behavior and Intervention Actions:

- You should have received an electronic and/or hard copy of the AGCZ *“Behavior and Intervention Action Policy”* and the Acknowledgment Form for signature. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated at Zoo Camp. Behavior policy procedures will be followed and documentation forms will be sent home for signatures as needed for incident infractions. Please refer to the Policy for details.
- Depending on the severity of an offense, consequences may range from a “time out” break to a Camper being dismissed from attendance. We expect that all our Campers will behave with kind and respectful choices.

Health, Illness, and Medications:

- You should already have completed the *“Camp Health & Emergency Form”* and *“Animal Encounter Waiver.”* AGCZ Staff and Counselors **CANNOT** administer any medications. Campers must be able to take their own medication.
- Please make camp staff aware of any allergies or other medical, behavioral or dietary issues that may affect your child’s health and safety so that we may alert parents for safe lunches and snacks regarding foods such as nuts.
- For the health and safety of other campers and the staff, please keep your child home if ill. Those exhibiting vomiting, diarrhea, infectious illness symptoms or a fever of 100.4F should remain home. If your child becomes ill at camp, you will be notified to come pick them up immediately. The child will not be allowed back to camp until cleared by a doctor and a doctor’s note provided.
- All Campers must be able to use the bathroom and clean themselves independently. Staff cannot assist in the restroom. Send a change of clothes if necessary.
- Although we cannot accommodate all needs nor provide one-on-one care for any individual camper, our team strives to do all within our capacity to make each child feel welcome and included in a safe environment.

Technology Release:

- You should have already signed the *“Photo/Video Release Form”* in the *Health and Emergency Contact Form* packet. If for any reason you do not want your child’s image used in any manner for promotional purposes by AGCZ, please contact the Education Program Manager in person, by phone or email prior to your first day of camp.

Refund Policy:

- Non-refundable after the cut-off date, except in case of AGCZ cancellation or closure.
 - Every effort will be made to reschedule campers to another week first, then refund if necessary.
- If a child is dismissed from camp, there is no entitlement to a refund.
- If a child is sick and misses camp, there will be no refund.
- *Should you cancel or miss your reserved camp week, please consider your payment a contribution to support AGCZ's mission.*

We look forward to having a wonderful summer of learning and adventure with your Camper(s).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sonda Stokes,
Education Program Manager at 251-256-7008 ext126 or sonda@algulfcoastzoo.org .