

Registration FAQs

How do I sign up for Zoo Camp?

You can sign up for Zoo Camp on the Racine Zoo website at www.racinezoo.org/zoo-summer-camp. Registration is open now and closes two weeks prior to the Monday of your chosen week.

Can I only sign up for half-day camps?

Our camps run in half-day sessions, but you can sign your camper up for a full day of camp as long as they are not in the Preschool group. If your camper signs up for a full day, they will have lunch between 12:00 and 1:00pm that is supervised by our Education staff members.

Can my preschooler come to camp for the whole day?

Unfortunately, preschoolers may not sign up for full-day camps. This is to ensure they have the best camp experience, and most preschool-aged campers do best with the half-day schedule.

Do I get a discount if I am a Zoo member?

Yes! Racine Zoo members get a 10% discount off their full price of camp. Please see your e-mail for a discount code that you can apply at checkout.

What if I sign up for one session, but my camper can't attend that session anymore?

If your camper can no longer attend the session you originally signed up for, you may change their week. A \$20 change-of-session fee will be applied for any changes made. Refunds may only be given under extreme circumstances, and no refunds will be given for cancellations made with less than 2 weeks notice.

Registration looks different this year. What changed?

We have a new software we are using to help streamline the registration process for both Guests and staff. You are welcome to call the Education department at 262-636-9580 or e-mail us at education@racinezoo.org if you would like some help!

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If I want to sign my campers up for the full day, do I need to put their information in twice?


Yes, in order to make sure we have your camper accounted for every session they sign up for, you will need to register for each session they would like to attend.

When I go to register for the weeklong camps, I can only sign up for the Monday of camp?

Summer camps, other than the week of June 30-July 4, are all weeklong camps. Even though you only select the Monday of your desired session, your camper is signing up for the whole week, Monday - Friday of the time slot (morning or afternoon) you selected.

When I try to register for Spring Break Camp or Summer Holiday Camp, I see different options for each day.

This year, we are offering pay-by-day camps rather than weeklong camps. **You must sign up for each day you would like your camper to attend.** Summer Holiday Camps are half days, so if you'd like to attend all day, you must sign up for both morning and afternoon sessions.



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Where do I drop off my camper?

Campers are dropped off at the Augusta St. gate at the north end of the Zoo. You can park on Augusta St. or Michigan Blvd and walk your campers up to the gate, where a Zoo staff member will be waiting for you!

What time do I drop off & pick up my camper?

Each session has their own drop-off and pick-up times. For the morning session, drop-off is 8:30am-9:00am, and pick-up is 12:00pm-12:30pm. For the afternoon session, drop-off is 12:30pm-1:00pm and pickup is 4:00pm-4:30pm. If your camper is attending the full day, you may drop-off with the morning session and pick-up with the afternoon session.

Do you offer extended care hours for my camper?

We do! Extended care hours are from 7:30am-9:00am and 4:00pm-6:00pm. We do not offer extended care between the two camp sessions. Extended care sessions carry an additional fee of \$20 for 5 days of before-camp care and \$25 for 5 days of after-camp care. We do not offer single-day options for weeklong camps.

What if I need to drop off my child late?

After 9:00am and 1:00pm, our Zoo staff will lock the Augusta Gate. If you and your camper arrive to the Zoo after that time, you must take them to the Zoo admissions window and tell them that your child is here for camp. **You must walk your child to your counselor's location and sign them in.** If you are more than an hour late to drop off your camper, we recommend keeping them home for the day.

What if I need to pick up my child early?

We do not allow early pick-ups from camp unless in the event of an emergency. If you do need to pick your child up early, you must contact the Education Department at 262-636-9580. **You must meet your camper's group and sign out with the Camp Counselor.**

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What if I have to drop off my child early or pick them up late, but I haven't paid for extended care?

Campers that are dropped off before check-in time or picked up after drop-off ends will be charged for before and after care. Campers that are picked up after 6:00pm will be charged an additional fee. Campers will not be able to be dropped off before 7:30am.

Can my camper bring their own toys or games?

Campers should not bring their own toys or games to Zoo Camp. The Zoo is not responsible for lost or damaged items. If children's personal games or toys become a problem, they may be confiscated and returned to the parent at the end of the day. Games and activities provided by the Zoo will be available during extended care, drop-off, and pick-up.

Do you provide snacks and lunch for campers?

Each camper gets one provided snack per session. All snacks are nut-free. If your child has dietary restrictions or allergies, please consider providing a small snack for your child to eat during snack time. Campers that are staying for the full day must bring their own sack lunch.

Can my camper get lunch from the Jungle Grill?

No. Campers must provide their own lunch if they are staying for the full day. They are not permitted to bring money to spend on food from the Zoo.

What does my camper need to bring to camp?

Every day, a camper should bring **a backpack, close-toed shoes, and a refillable water bottle**. If your camper is staying for the full day, they also need to bring a sack lunch.

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What clothes should my camper wear?

Zoo camp is an outdoor activity that runs in all types of weather: rain, shine, or wind! Please dress your camper for the weather. Close-toed shoes are required, and hard-soled shoes are recommended (not Crocs). Campers will be playing outside and in the grass, so we recommend campers wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty. **Zoo and Camp staff cannot change any campers clothing.**

Does my camper need to be potty trained to attend camp?

Yes. Campers must be fully potty trained by the first day of Zoo Camp. Camp and Zoo staff cannot help any campers use the toilet, nor can they change any pullups or diapers. If your camper is not fully potty trained by the first day of camp, they will be sent home for the week and no refund will be issued.

Can my camper bring sunscreen and/or bug spray?

Yes! Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen and bug spray before checking in their child for camp. Camp and Zoo staff are not able to apply cream sunscreen or bug spray, but may assist with spraying on sunscreen or bug spray provided by the camper. Campers may not share sunscreen or bug spray. Campers may also wear bug spray patches or bracelets.

Is my camper allowed to use their cell phone?

No. Camper cell phones must be turned off and put away in their backpack at all times, including during lunch, pick up, drop off, and extended care. Should you need to contact your camper, you can call Conservation Education (262-636-9580) or the Main Zoo Line (262-636-9189).

What if there is bad weather?

Camp takes place rain or shine, hot or chilly! Please dress your campers for the weather. If there is inclement weather at the zoo (i.e. severe thunderstorm, tornado watch/warning), we will move campers to a shelter and follow all Zoo emergency protocols.