

Racine Zoo 2022 Summer Camp Response to COVID-19

We have been closely monitoring the situation regarding COVID-19, and after careful consideration of federal and local recommendations, have determined that we will be able to run our Racine Zoo Summer Camp this year! We are so excited to see everyone back again for summer camp this year! Camp will necessarily look a bit different than it has in the past as we work to do our best to keep your children safe.

Summer Camps will follow health and safety guidelines as released in the “Field Guide for Camps on Implementation of CDC Guidance,” released by the American Camp Association (ACA) in May of 2020. This document was developed in partnership with the CDC, State Boards of Health and county health departments across the country, as well as the American Academy of Pediatrics. Additionally, our guidelines and capacities for summer camp were reviewed and approved by City of Racine health officials. Our guidelines may change through the summer as best practices evolve, and we will continue to communicate with everyone as conditions change through the season.

Here is what we are doing in class to keep your children safe:

General Class Changes

- Camps will cap at 15 campers each.
- All campers will be required to bring a backpack or bag with personal belongings, including their lunch, to avoid spread or contamination from common storage. These bags will be left spread out in designated areas during activities.
- No communal craft supplies will be provided. Instead, each camper will receive their own set of craft supplies at the start of the week, to be turned in at the end of the week for a full disinfection.
- Camp areas will be thoroughly disinfected during and at the end of each day of camp.
- Currently, animal encounters will take place but be non-contact. We will be continually reevaluating this and will make changes through the season as conditions permit.
- Camp activities will be done outdoors as much as weather permits. Please send your child dressed for the weather.

- Counselor training will include a new module on facts about COVID-19, new policies, and how to reduce potential risks and spread associated with Racine Zoo Summer Camp.

Food and Beverages

- As always, campers will bring their own lunches. Rather than storing these lunches together, lunches will be kept in individual bags/backpacks and brought with campers through the day.
- Snacks will be provided. Only individually wrapped snacks will be available. If your child has dietary restrictions, we highly recommend packing snacks for our daily snack time for your child, as restrictions will be more difficult to accommodate. We will still do our best to accommodate these restrictions.
- Campers should bring their own reusable water bottles. We will have disposable cups available if water bottles are lost/forgotten.

Pick-up/ Drop Off

- All campers will be dropped off/picked up at the Augusta Street Gate (Located in the North-East corner of the zoo).
- To avoid bunching up at pickup/drop off, all parents may choose to drop off anytime from 8:30am-9:00am in the morning, and pick up anytime from 4:00pm-4:30pm in the afternoon, without an additional charge for pre/post camp care.
- To keep the flow of traffic during drop off, we ask that parents say goodbye in the car as much as feasible in the morning. At pick up, staff will diligently try to facilitate students having all of their belongings together in their bag before you arrive.
- Parents and students will be asked to maintain social distance during pick up/drop off times.
- While we will check IDs at pickup, staff will initial campers in/out to avoid sharing of pens and passing papers.
- All students will hand sanitize upon arrival to class.
- ACA best practices recommend the same adult picking up and dropping off campers every day, and not bringing siblings/other family members along. While we recognize this is not possible for every family, please try to accommodate this request as you are able.

- Parents will be asked to take their child's temperature daily before coming to camp. Temperatures over 100F should not come to the Zoo. Temperatures will also be taken during the day of each camper via laser reader from the forehead.
- Any campers exhibiting any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (fever, unusual shortness of breath, cough, severe headache, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or other symptoms as determined by that day's camp lead) should stay home.
- If a camper has a confirmed case of COVID-19, all parents, as well as local health officials, will be notified. The individual child's name and any identifying information will NOT be disclosed.
- If you or a member of your household has been in contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, we request that you refrain from bringing your child to camp.
- If a child is sick during the day, the child will be pulled from camp to the education office until an authorized adult is able to pick them up. This will be done with care and consideration to the child as to not cause stress for the camper, and activities will be provided until they are able to be picked up.
- These same procedures will be applied to staff, and additional staff will be available to fill in should your child's teacher become ill. If any teacher has a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, all parents, as well as local health officials, will be notified.
- Fees for missed days due to illness will not be refundable, but we will do our best to accommodate your student in another week when they are feeling better. Applying credit for camp in future years is also an option.
- Any absent student who has already attended class will be contacted to follow up and make sure they are not absent due to symptoms.
- Particularly if your student is at a higher risk of complications associated with COVID-19, please talk with your child about regular hand-washing and avoiding touching their face through the day. We will take handwashing breaks and distribute hand sanitizer through the day and before meals and snacks, but consider sending your child with their own bottle of hand sanitizer to keep with them.

Please note that these procedures are subject to change at any time as we receive new information on COVID-19 and best practices.

Additional Resources:

If you would like to reference materials used in creating these guidelines, below are the resources used. These new guidelines were created through close reading of these resources, as well as conversations with other AZA Zoos in the state and around the country, and careful consideration by our Racine Zoo camp team.

American Camp Association's Camp Operations Guide Summer 2020

<https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/coronavirus/camp-business/camp-operations-guide-summer-2020>

CDC Guidance for Camps

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/Camps-Decision-Tree.pdf>

CDC Considerations for Youth and Summer Camps

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/summer-camps.html>

We understand this is an incredibly difficult and stressful time for children and families, and the decision to have your child attend Summer Camp is a personal decision for you and your family. We hope these measures alleviate some of your concerns, and hope to see your campers again soon!