

In these unprecedented times, we recognize that summer camp will be more important than ever. We are thrilled to be offering on-site camp programs for 2nd-5th graders and our zoo crew program this year, but with some modifications to better ensure the safety of our campers, staff, and animals during this time. We are following all recommendations from the CDC, American Camp Association, and our local health department.

What precautions is the Utica Zoo taking to reduce the risk of exposure at camp?

- **Parent Pick Up/Drop Off:** Pick up and drop off of zoo campers will be done at our front gate. Health questionnaires and temperature checks will be completed each day prior to children exiting their vehicles. Please be respectful of pick up and drop off times. If your child is not picked up by 10 minutes after your scheduled pick up time, you will be charged a late pick up fee of \$20.
- **Smaller Camp Sizes:** In order to adhere to our state public gathering guidelines, we are limiting our camp size to 10 campers per session. In order to provide our zoo camp experience to as many learners as possible, two camp sessions each week in different locations so that no two groups share the same classroom space.
- **Camp Sessions in the Pavilion:** Camp sessions will be held this year in our outdoor pavilions. Your child will be able to enjoy the same great program while overlooking some of our awesome exhibits!
- **Activities & Supplies:** Included with your zoo camp session this year will be a backpack with some frequently used craft supplies, including a glue stick, crayons, scissors, and paintbrush! All other supplies will be distributed safely by staff to ensure limited contact. All activities and games will be modified to keep campers separate as much as possible.
- **Masks:** All Zoo staff will wear face masks and complete daily health screenings. Face masks will be required for campers to participate in group activities and animal interactions.
- **Cleaning & Sanitizing:** Cleanliness and sanitation are always top priorities at Zoo Camp. In light of COVID-19, we have increased the number of cleanings each space receives.
- **Updates to the Safety Protocol:** The health of our campers, staff, and animals is of utmost importance to us. As such, if anyone in your household has been exposed to COVID-19, has tested positive for COVID-19, or is exhibiting symptoms of the virus 14 days or less before the start of your registered zoo camp session, your child will not be able to attend. If this should happen, please

Mission: Utica Zoo creates unique experiences and promotes public appreciation of wildlife through education, conservation and recreation.

contact us so that we can arrange for your child to attend another zoo camp session.

Will there be any changes to guest experiences or animal encounters at the Zoo?

In an effort to protect campers and our animals, we have made the difficult decision to exclude touching of ambassador animals during education programs and camp this year

Campers will still be able to feed the goats. **Face masks will be required for campers to participate in goat feeding.**

The Wildlife Hall will also be closed for the foreseeable future.

What other changes have been made this year to the zoo camp program?

- **Beaversprite Camps:** In addition to our camps being held at the zoo, we are excited to add two new camp sessions at our new nature and conservation center, Beaversprite! Please note that Beaversprite campers must be dropped off at Beaversprite. There is no transportation from the zoo to the conservation center.
- **Camp Session Extensions:** Our full day sessions have traditionally run from 9:00am-3:00pm, but this year we are extending our sessions! There will be an additional hour added to each camp!
- **Online Booking:** All zoo camp registrations will be completed online this year and full payment will be due upon registration. This process will make registering your camper much easier and ensures a fair sign up process for all interested families. Our camp sessions do fill up quickly so if the session you'd like to sign up for is full, please contact us to be put on the waitlist.
- **Cancellation Policy:** If you cancel at least 14 days before the start of your camp session, you are eligible for a refund. However, a \$25 convenience fee will be charged per transaction. If you cancel less than 14 days in advance, your registration fee and/or deposit is non-refundable, unless the class is canceled by zoo staff.

Although we are currently planning to run all of our Summer camp programs this season, we are required to follow any state and federal guidelines that may restrict group gatherings. In addition, should an exposure occur with a camp staff member or camper, we will have to cancel the remainder of the camp session and the sessions that follow. If we have to cancel a camp session due to these restrictions or to ensure the safety of everyone in our camp program, you will be notified as quickly as possible.

It is our hope that this year's summer camp will provide opportunities for your children with hands-on learning as well as time to interact with their peers in a safe setting. We look forward to seeing you this summer, now more than ever! Please feel free to reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

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