

## Utica Zoo Jr. Zoo Crew FAQ



**1. Can my child attend the class if he/she is under the age of 12?**

*Unfortunately, we can only accept children that are at least 12 years of age or turning 12 years of age by or before the end of the current year. For example: a child that is 11 years old and will be turning 12 years old in the month of September (following the training) will be able to attend.*

**2. What if my child is 14, and will be turning 15 before the end of the current year?**

*If you (and/or your child) feel as though he/she is ready to become an independent education volunteer, he/she may take part in the Zoo Crew training rather than the Jr. Zoo Crew training. If your child is under 16 and becomes a part of the Zoo Crew program, they will be monitored by a staff member or docent at all times while on zoo grounds – see question #6 for more information.*

**3. Will my child be able to volunteer once finishing the Jr. Zoo Crew training?**

*Jr. Zoo Crew members are considered to be a part of our shadow program once finishing the training course. This means that your child will be able to shadow many of the programs that we offer to the public, so that he/she can get a feel for what it might be like to become an education volunteer in the future. Once your child attends the Zoo Crew training course (for those 15-17 years old), he/she will become an official zoo volunteer.*

**4. How often will my child get to shadow?**

*Once your child goes through the Jr. Zoo Crew training, you will begin to receive a monthly calendar (via email) that will include programs that your child will be able to sign up for. Your child may sign up for any of the available programs on that calendar, with approval of the Education Volunteer Coordinator.*

**5. What are some of the programs that my child might get to shadow?**

*Your child will get to shadow many of the on-grounds programs that we offer here at the zoo; this might include programs like: zoo camp, school break programs, weekend programs that are free to the visiting public, and even zoo events. While your child is shadowing, he/she will be able to observe how education staff or docents run an educational program or event, as well as learn about the zoo's education and exhibit animals, which will help them get to know the zoo even better before becoming a Zoo Crew member.*

**6. Do I need to stay with my child while they are shadowing?**

*It is not a requirement that you stay with your child while they are shadowing, however, it is zoo policy that any child under the age of 16 must be monitored by an adult at all times while on zoo grounds. Jr. Zoo Crew members will always be with a zoo education staff member or zoo docent while they are shadowing a program. We require parents/guardians to drop their child off to the appropriate location within the zoo, to assure that their child is with a staff member or zoo docent once they arrive to shadow (this also includes the training course as well).*

**7. What if my child does not want to shadow after going through the Jr. Zoo Crew training?**

*It is not a requirement that your child shadow any programs following the completion of the training. You are welcome to opt out of receiving emails each month. We designed the Jr. Zoo Crew training just like our regular zoo camps; they are meant to be fun, engaging, and educational for this age group, but also allows them to get to know the zoo a little bit more than our younger zoo campers.*

**8. Can my child attend the Jr. Zoo Crew training course more than once?**

*Yes! Your child can attend the course as many times as he/she wishes. Although, the material covered from year-to-year does not tend to change, so your child might encounter similar topics and activities if he/she attends more than once.*