

Zoo Knoxville's Wildly Fun Zoo Camp

Summer Camp 2026



Cost:

5-day camps: \$280/week for members
 \$295/week for non-members
 3-day camps: \$190/week for members
 \$200/week for non-members

Details:

Monday – Friday each week (except 3-day camps)
 9:00am to 3:00pm for all age groups and camps
 Bring a sack lunch and snacks. Drinks will be provided. Or purchase a lunch/snack option. [Menu and prices below.](#)

Each camper will receive one camp shirt, water bottle and water bottle holder for each week of camp. Campers are asked to wear their camp shirt each day. Additional shirts may be purchased online in advance for \$15.

Registration will close the Wednesday before each camp, or if the camp starts on a Wednesday, registration will close the Sunday before, if it isn't already full.



Lunch/Snack Option

You can choose the option of your camper getting their lunch and morning snack added to your camper's registration. Lunch and snack options will be the same for each week of camp. There is a small and large lunch option for a variety of appetites. There are no substitutions, but campers are still welcome to bring any additional food or snacks that they would like. Lunch purchase will close at the same time as registration closes. ***Lunch will not be an option for the high school Intro to Veterinary Science camp as they will be off zoo grounds multiple days.**

Small Lunch/ Snack Option \$50 for the full week and \$30 for the three-day camps:

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Morning Snack | Pretzels | Chocolate Chip Chewy Bar | Cheese Stick | Clementine | Go-Gurt |
| Lunch | Turkey slices with cubed cheddar cheese, crackers, and a cookie | Grilled cheese with Oreos | 3-4 oz popcorn chicken and brownie | Hot dog with fruit snacks (gummies) | Mozzarella cheese bagel pizza (half bagel) and carrots |

Large Lunch/ Snack Option \$65 for the full week and \$39 for the three-day camps:

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------|---|--|---|--|---|
| Morning Snack | Pretzels and cheese stick | Chewy Bar and apple | Cheese stick and pretzels | Chewy bar and clementine | Go-Gurt and banana |
| Lunch | Turkey sandwich with cheese and lettuce, cookie, and an apple | Grilled cheese, fruit cocktail and Oreos | 5-6 oz popcorn chicken, clementine, and brownie | Hot dog, an apple and fruit snacks (gummies) | Mozzarella cheese and pepperoni bagel pizza (full bagel), carrots and chips |

Registration opens: Monday, January 12th for members
Monday, January 26th for non-members.

Registration will close the Wednesday before each camp starts, or the Sunday before if the camp starts on a Wednesday, if it isn't already full.

All camps are designed to be age-appropriate, so please do not request to enroll children in other age categories including older or younger siblings.

Children with special needs may require a personal chaperone to attend with them.

All campers must be fully potty trained and able to use the restroom on their own prior to registration.

Campers can attend up to three camps. Please do not sign up a camper for the same camp theme more than once.

All camps are held at Zoo Knoxville rain or shine. Camps fill quickly and are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Cancellations:

- *Transfer a registration to another camp or a different camper: \$15*
- *30 days or more before registered week of camp: Full refund minus \$50 cancellation fee (full-week camps) or \$30 cancellation fee (half-week camps)*
- *Less than 30 days before registered week of camp: \$50 refund (\$30 for half week camps).*
- *No refund for no-shows.*

Prices are subject to change without notice.

2026 Zoo Camp Themes

(Please note camp themes and dates are subject to change until the time registration starts)

| Age | May 20-22 (Wed-Fri)* | May 27-29 (Wed-Fri)* | June 1-5 | June 8-12 | June 15-19 | June 22-26 |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 4-5yo | Animal Kingdom | Wings and Whiskers | Home Sweet Home | Wings and Whiskers | Animal Kingdom | Home Sweet Home |
| 6-7yo | | CSI: Zoo Edition | Nature's Superheroes | Animal Outlaws | CSI: Zoo Edition | CSI: Zoo Edition |
| 8-10yo | | Jr. Zoo Crew | Nature's Masterpieces | The Most Extreme | Jr. Zoo Crew | Jr. Zoo Crew |
| 11-17yo | | | 11-13yo Be a Zoologist | 11-13yo Citizen Sciences | 14-17yo Intro to Vet Science | 11-13yo Be a Zoologist |

| Age | June 29-July 1 (Mon-Wed)* | July 6-10 | July 13-17 | July 20-24 | July 27-29 (Mon-Wed)* |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 4-5yo | Animal Kingdom | Wings and Whiskers | Animal Kingdom | Animal Kingdom | Home Sweet Home |
| 6-7yo | Nature's Superheroes | Nature's Superheroes | CSI: Zoo Edition | Animal Outlaws | Animal Outlaws |
| 8-10yo | Nature's Masterpieces | Nature's Masterpieces | Jr. Zoo Crew | The Most Extreme | The Most Extreme |
| 11-17yo | | 14-17yo Zoo Careers | 11-13yo Be a Zoologist | | |

*Grey squares are 3-day camps.

4-5 Year Olds

***All campers must be fully potty trained and able to use the restroom on their own prior to registration. ***

Animal Kingdom May 20-22* June 15-19 June 29-July 1* July 13-17 July 20-24

Journey through the animal kingdom to learn why some animals are fuzzy and others are scaly, why some have wings and some have shells. The animal kingdom is made up of all sorts of animals such as mammals, reptiles, birds, and so much more! Campers will spend the week learning what makes all of these creatures unique and how to tell the difference. Campers will become animal experts in no time!

(May 20-22* is a 3-day camp Wednesday-Friday; June 29-July 1* is a 3-day camp Monday-Wednesday)

Home Sweet Home June 1-5 June 22-26 July 27-29*

Where do you call *home*? The places we call home are very different than animals' home sweet homes. Campers will venture into what animals call home as they learn about different habitats, what type of animals can be found there and the special adaptations animals have in order to survive in those habitats.

(July 27-29* is a 3-day camp Monday-Wednesday)

Wings and Whiskers May 27-29* June 8-12 July 6-10

Have you ever wondered what a tiger's whiskers are for? Or why the animal kingdom has such fascinating flyers? Join us as we explore the world's unique animal adaptations by observing animals around the zoo and trying out some wings and whiskers of our own!

(May 27-29* is a 3-day camp Wednesday-Friday)

6-7 Year Olds

***All campers must be fully potty trained and able to use the restroom on their own prior to registration. ***

Animal Outlaws June 8-12 July 20-24
July 27-29*

Who are the bad boys of the animal world? Raccoons, snakes, and tarantulas are well-known for their mischievous behavior and fright-factor, but is everything really what it seems? This week, campers will have the opportunity to meet and learn about some awesome, misunderstood animals with bad reputations and maybe even make some creepy-crawly friends along the way as we, too, become nature's outlaws and try our hand at some sneakiness of our own!

(May 20-22* is a 3-day camp Wednesday-Friday; July 27-29* is a 3-day camp Monday-Wednesday)



CSI: Zoo Edition May 27-29* June 15-19 June 22-26 July 13-17

Oh no! Someone broke into the classroom and stole the teacher's bag! It is up to our camp full of detectives to solve the mystery and find the person (or animal?) responsible. Throughout the week campers will learn how to track the culprit by identifying and casting animal tracks and following scat trails. This will be a mystery packed adventure for your little detective!

(May 27-29* is a 3-day camp Wednesday-Friday)

Nature's Superheroes June 1-5 June 29-Jul 1* July 6-10

Welcome to Zoo Knoxville's superhero boot camp! This week, campers will learn all about what it means to be nature's superhero. As part of their training, campers will learn about conservation and environmental topics affecting the natural world—and then practice skills and activities to help save the planet! By the end of the week, campers will be true conservation warriors!

(June 29-July 1* is a 3-day camp Monday-Wednesday)

8-10 Year Olds

Jr. Zoo Crew May 27-29* June 15-19 June 22-26 July 13-17

Want to be a zookeeper? Zoo Knoxville's Junior Zoo Crew will spend a week following in a zookeeper's footsteps as they learn all about what it takes to care for some of the animals who call Zoo Knoxville home. Campers will learn about the importance of enrichment while creating animal toys and treats, help to keep Zoo Knoxville's residents healthy and fed while preparing daily diets, and find out just how much work being a zookeeper really takes as they help a Zoo Knoxville keeper clean an exhibit. Come behind-the-scenes with us to see just what happens on the other side of the fence!



(May 27-29* is a 3-day camp Wednesday-Friday)

Nature's Masterpieces June 1-5 June 29-July 1* July 6-10

Campers will examine zoo life to become inspired to create stunning masterpieces. Campers access their artistic abilities by observing and having face to face animal encounters. After learning about different animals, campers will assemble ordinary objects to create extraordinary works of art. Each day will be filled with small projects, including an abstract scavenger hunt, culminating in a larger showcase at the end of the week.

(June 29-July 1* is a 3-day camp Monday-Wednesday)

The Most Extreme June 8-12 July 20-24 July 27-29*

If we were as loud as a lion our friends would be able to hear us from 5 miles away. Or if we had the rotten diet of a vulture our stomach would be full of battery acid! Come with us to discover animals that take life to the most extreme and learn what would happen if their abilities were given to us!

(May 20-22* is a 3-day camp Wednesday-Friday; July 27-29* is a 3-day camp Monday-Wednesday)

11-13 Year Olds

Be a Zoologist

June 1-5

June 22-26

July 13-17

How do zoologists study life? What does it take to care for wildlife in a zoo? What do zookeepers actually do? Using observation and the scientific method, campers will discover how scientists' study and understand wildlife and learn how zookeepers build relationships with the animals in their care. Campers will look at animal behavior management, zoo careers, and what it takes to become a conservation leader!

Citizen Science

June 8-12

Science can be done anywhere, not just in a laboratory! This week, students will explore a selection of citizen science programs both in the classroom and outdoors. Campers will partake in various field science opportunities and get a taste of what it is like to work in various scientific disciplines—and help real-life scientists on current research projects as citizen scientists right now!

14-17 Year Olds

Intro to Veterinary Science

June 15-19

Ever wondered if a career in veterinary science was right for you? How about a career working with wildlife such as big cats, wolves, and primates? Campers will explore different aspects of veterinary care and learn all about the nitty gritty details that go on behind-the-scenes in operating a zoo. From assisting a molecular ecologist from MTSU with laboratory work for an ongoing research project to observing and monitoring behavior in Zoo Knoxville animals to completing dissections—campers will spend this week hands-on while undergoing a crash course in veterinary care. ***NOTE: Campers will have opportunities to visit facilities off Zoo grounds; this means that campers need to have the ability to be dropped-off/picked-up at locations within 30 minutes of Zoo Knoxville.***

Zoo Careers

July 6-10

In this camp, campers will spend each day exploring the ins and outs of some of the different careers available at a zoo. While learning about what it takes to become a zookeeper, campers will get hands-on experience with the day-to-day activities associated with being a zookeeper from preparing exhibits to training animals. While learning about what our on-site vets do daily, campers will get the opportunity to meet with members of our clinic staff. While working with our exhibit design staff, campers will get to try their hand at getting creative while planning and building exhibits for our animal collection. All of this and more gives campers a real-life look at the careers available at Zoo Knoxville and other zoos around the world!

Questions?

Email us at zkcamp@zooknoxvile.org or call us at 865-637-5331 ext. 1367.