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Director



Zoo Camp



at the



Bergen County Zoo

Summer 2011

What is Zoo Camp?

Zoo Camp is a week-long program for children ages 5 – 15 years old. Campers are organized in the following age groups: Lambs (5 & 6 years old,) Hawks (7 & 8 years old,) Gators (9 – 11 years old,) and Junior Zookeepers (12 – 15 years old.) Camp runs Monday – Friday, 9 am – 1 pm. Zoo Camp costs \$150 for the week and includes a Zoo Camp t-shirt.

Lambs, Hawks, and Gators spend time touring different parts of the zoo, meet a different animal up-close in the classroom each day, play animal-related games, and make crafts. Junior Zookeepers explore different aspects of a career in zookeeping as they learn about our animals, prepare their diets, and clean their enclosures.

Because of the popularity of Zoo Camp, registration is open only to residents of Bergen County or non-residents who are Zoo Members. Campers are selected by lottery.

How do I apply?

1. Fill out the Zoo Camp registration form. ****One child per registration form; please make copies for additional children.****
2. Attach a copy of the child's birth certificate or passport. Applications that are received without proof of age will not be entered into the lottery.
3. Mail the application & proof of age to the zoo by March 1st. Applications must be *received by* March 1st to be entered into the lottery.
4. Do NOT send payment with the application. If your child is selected, you will be asked for payment in April.

My child was in Zoo Camp last year. Can s/he come again?

To be fair to other applicants, we allow children to attend each camp group (Lambs, Hawks, Gators, Junior Zookeepers) only once. If your child was a 6-year-old Lamb last year, but will be a 7-year-old Hawk this year, s/he **is** eligible, even though it is two years in a row. However, if s/he was a 9-year-old Gator two years ago, but would be an 11-year-old Gator this year, s/he is **not** eligible, even though s/he hasn't been in camp in two years.

How will I know if my child is selected?

You will be notified by mail by April 21st if your child is selected. Due to the high number of applicants, we cannot notify anyone who was not selected. If you have not heard from us by the end of April, your child wasn't selected in the lottery. We keep all applications on file, and if we have a last minute cancellation, we will select another child.

What if I want to send my children during the same week?

If you would like to send children during the same week (whether or not they are in the same age group,) use the "Carpool List" and make sure the applications are mailed in the same envelope.

More about the Carpool List:

The Carpool List is designed to help families with carpooling and for planning vacation/other family activities around only one week of Zoo Camp. In order to be in the same *group* (i.e. Lambs,) both children must be the appropriate age for that group. However, children of different ages can come during the same *week* (but be in different *groups*, i.e. Lambs & Hawks.) **Note: children admitted in the same age group will still be assigned to different counselors within the group.** They will be together for some activities, and separate for others. To apply with a friend/sibling, all applications must be mailed/dropped off in the same envelope and all names must be written on the Carpool List of the accompanying applications. The list is limited to two friends – only three applications may be submitted together. If four or more are submitted, they will be separated into two groups at the zoo's discretion. By submitting your child's application with others, either all will be accepted to camp, or none of them will.

Why do you need the birth certificate/passport?

Children are placed in camp groups based on age, not grade level. With hundreds of applications, this is the only fair way to ensure that children are applying for the correct group. Some parents have expressed concern that children with summer birthdays should be in the "older" age group to be with their peers. From past experience, campers have never had problems feeling "too old" for their camp group, as several other campers also miss our cut-off date.

