

Lincoln Park
Zoo
Conservation Camp 2010

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How will registration work this year?

A. Registration will take place entirely **online** and will open to the public February 23 at 10 a.m. Once you register online, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with additional information about Conservation Camp. This e-mail will also include all of your child's registration information, which you should review to ensure that it is accurate. **Please note:** All campers are required to submit a copy of a birth certificate for age verification. First-time campers must fax or mail a copy to the Lincoln Park Zoo Education Department. Returning campers with a birth certificate on file will not need to submit another.

Q. How do the differently themed weeks of camp work?

A. To balance requests for a one-week and two-week camp experience, we have decided to offer two differently themed weeklong sessions ("The Web of Wildlife" and "Nature and You"). The sessions are independent and non-cumulative, so you may enroll in one **or** both weeks. You can begin with either session, and they do not need to be taken consecutively—you can take a few weeks off between sessions if you like. "**The Web of Wildlife**" focuses on the countless relationships between animals in nature. "**Nature and You**" focuses on our relationship with the natural world.

Q. Can I sign my child up for the same theme twice?

A. No. If you are looking for a two-week experience, you must sign up for one week of "The Web of Wildlife" topic and one week of "Nature and You." You will not be able to sign up for two sessions of the same topic.

Q. Can I bring an unregistered child to camp and register them when we arrive?

A. No. Registrations must be taken place in advance, and participants must be of the appropriate age for the program. Conservation Camp fills quickly, and we cannot accommodate day-of registrations.

Q. Can I switch classes on the first day of class?

A. No. We are unable to rearrange class lists and registrants once the camp week has started. Camp sessions historically fill up, and for safety reasons we are unable to have more the maximum number of campers in each session.

Q. Can I register my younger child who will be four in August? (Or my second grader in the third grade class, etc...?)

A. No. All classes are specifically designed with the age group in mind. In order to give everyone an opportunity to enroll in camp we require campers to enroll with their own age group. Campers attending the 4- and 5-year-old camps **must** be that age on the first day of camp. For other classes, your child must be enrolled in the class that matches the grade they will be entering in fall 2010. Selecting the program that is age/grade appropriate for your child will provide them the best overall experience.

Q. Will parents be allowed to stay with their children while they are in class?

A. As a general rule, this is not allowed. Camp is designed to encourage interaction among participants of the same age, without parents. Due to space limitations, we are unable to accommodate parents. Some children will perhaps experience a brief moment of anxiety, overcome their fears and participate more quickly without a parent present. If you think your child cannot remain in class without you, please consider waiting another year.

Q. Can friends or relatives accompany my child to camp for a day?

A. Unfortunately, due to safety and space concerns we are only able to accommodate children who are registered in camp. However, you are always welcome to visit the zoo as long as you like while your camper is participating.

Q. Is there a First Aid on site?

A. Yes. There is an EMT on duty each day at Gateway Pavilion.

Q. Who do I call if there is an emergency?

A. You can call the Education Department at 312-742-2056 or 312-742-2460.

Q. I am concerned about leaving my child at camp. What safety measures do you take?

A. Your child's safety and well-being are our top priority. All of our staff must submit to background checks and are trained to work with children. For their safety, we ask that your child wear his/her Conservation Camp T-shirt each day so they can be clearly identified. All instructors, teaching assistants and camp coordinators will also wear easily identifiable T-shirts and carry radios to keep them in contact with each other. Lincoln Park Zoo has an EMT on grounds daily in case of any medical concerns. Camp check-in and check-out procedures are specifically designed with your child's safety in mind. If you have additional concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Q. Will my child have direct contact with the animals? Will they be able to work alongside the keepers and vets?

A. Each week campers will have the opportunity for up-close encounters with some of our small education-program animals (snakes, lizards and more). They may have the chance to touch these animal ambassadors. For the safety of all, direct contact with exhibit animals is not possible. All exhibit animal care, including feeding and cleaning, is done by professionally trained keepers and/or veterinarians.

Q. What are the expectations for children's behavior while they are at camp?

A. All campers will be expected to be "good citizens" and display proper classroom behavior while at camp. Unacceptable behavior includes, but is not limited to, mistreating animals, name calling, talking back, bullying, fighting, stealing, disobeying instructions, swearing, deliberate property damage, disobeying safety regulations and mistreating other campers. For the safety of all campers, parents will be required to sign a Code of Conduct as a part of registration. Progressive consequences include: time out, phone call to parents and/or parent meeting, and possible suspension from the camp program.