

Safari Camp FAQ



Program Schedule & Procedures

How old does my child have to be to participate in camps at Sunset Zoo?

All participants must have completed kindergarten to start attending camps. Camp is also for any students through completion of 5th grade.

Where are camps at Sunset Zoo held?

All camps at Sunset Zoo are based in the Nature Exploration Center. Each camp has a designated room where they will begin and end each day. Throughout the day, however, each camp will split the time up between inside and outside activities.

What are the session times for Sunset Zoo 's Camps?

Camps at Sunset Zoo run Monday through Friday (summer) or specific non-school days with drop off starting as early as 7:30 a.m. and pickup by 5:30 p.m.

Do I need to sign my child in every morning?

Yes, this process is required. Staff will manage sign in/out forms. Failure to follow this policy will result in termination from the program. Our license to operate depends on this.

Can I drop my child off late?

Yes. If campers arrive after 9:00 a.m., parents will need to walk them into the Nature Exploration Center and proceed to the administrative office. When arriving late, you may be asked to walk your child to the location of the group within the zoo. Thus, please plan your time accordingly.

How can I reach my child in an emergency?

If this situation arises, contact Sunset Zoo's main office at 785-587-2737.

Can I pick my child up early?

Yes. If you know in advance, please let staff know when dropping off your camper. However, this will not guarantee the group will be in the classroom when you arrive. You will need to check in with administrative staff to have help locating your child's camp so you can go pick up your child.

Is it okay to have someone other than a parent or guardian pick up a camper?

Yes, but everyone you want to be able to pick up your camper must be listed on the appropriate authorization form. In addition, you **MUST** list someone other than a parent/guardian that has authorization to pick up your camper in case of emergency. This is required by our Kansas Department of Health and Environment license.

Can campers bring personal items to camp?

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Yes. See the parent handbook for approved and suggested items. However, all items are subject to confiscation by staff if they cause challenges for the camp. All confiscated items will be returned at the request of the camper at the end of the day or if requested by the individual picking up the camper. We do understand bringing personal items may be necessary and will not require them to be taken with parent dropping off a camper. They just need to remain in the bag they were brought in during camp.

What if a camper becomes ill during camp?

The camp supervisor will contact parent/guardian or emergency contact to inform them of the situation. Sunset Zoo follows the exclusion policy suggested by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and is available in the parent handbook. If a camper is not picked up in a timely manner, late fees may be assessed. While an ill child waits to be picked up, they will be isolated from the rest of the camp to reduce risk of spreading illness.

What is the schedule of activities?

Please see the parent handbook.

Camp Paperwork

If my child attended Sunset Zoo 's camp previously, do I have to complete new forms?

It's possible. Sunset Zoo keeps paperwork for participants on file until they age out of our camp programs, but Kansas Department of Health and Environment updates their paperwork every few years; therefore, we may need to ask you to fill out a new packet. You can find the permission forms online at www.SunsetZoo.com, and it is strongly recommended families complete and submit forms in advance of participation. Participants will not be able to remain at Sunset Zoo without completed permission forms.

Does the Emergency Authorization form have to be notarized?

No, it is not required to have this form notarized but encouraged.

What if paperwork is not completed before the first day of camp?

Campers will not be allowed to stay with the camp if their paperwork is incomplete or not turned in. Parents/guardians will be given the opportunity to complete required



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paperwork when dropping off their camper if not done in advance. Our Kansas Department of Health and Environment license requires us to have certain paperwork on file for each child enrolled. Thus, campers onsite without paperwork is in violation of our license.

Do immunization records have to be provided with the paperwork?

If your child attended an accredited public or non-public school and you verify they are up-to-date on their immunizations, you do not need to provide immunization records.

Camp Supervisors

Do you conduct background checks on your staff?

Yes. The City of Manhattan conducts background checks on all staff and volunteers. In addition, all staff and volunteers working with children are included on our license, and they run a KBI, fingerprint background check on all individuals listed.

How do you hire your camp supervisors?

All our camp supervisors have graduated high school and have experience working with children and/or animals. In addition, our license through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment sets training and experience standards for staff, which include training in child development, identifying signs of child abuse and neglect, and First Aid/CPR.

How does Sunset Zoo staff its camps?

Each camp will have a lead staff member serving a full-time shift that is supported by staff working part-time shifts. At all times we follow staff to child ratios established by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Other Questions

Do Sunset Zoo's campers take field trips?

No. Sunset Zoo does not have the capacity to travel offsite beyond walking distance with camps. We do have access, however, to the entire Zoo, the large field across the street, the park just past the Zoo, and the Wildcat Creek offshoot (Linear Trail) that runs behind the Zoo.

Does Sunset Zoo provide food for campers during camps?



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Sunset Zoo provides AM and a PM snack during camp. Campers must bring a sack lunch. Sunset Zoo's concession stand will be open to purchase a lunch also (summer only).

Can a parent eat lunch with their child?

Yes, but not with the camp. Parents wishing to eat lunch with their child must sign their child out of camp then back in when they return.

Will campers interact with animals during camps at Sunset Zoo?

All camps include the use of animals from our education animal collection. These animals are utilized during school and other programs conducted throughout the year. They are used to being handled by trained staff and volunteers, as well as being around groups of people. Campers will NOT enter animal exhibits but will visit animals in the zoo every day.