

Utica Zoo Camp Behavior, Safety, and Medical Protocols

I. Behavior and Safety Protocol

The Utica Zoo strives to make zoo camp a fun, educational, and safe experience for all campers. Please notify camp staff if your child has any behavioral limitations so we can best accommodate them. Any camper behavior that threatens the safety of fellow campers, staff, zoo animals, or themselves will not be tolerated. These behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Climbing over fences or attempting to access restricted/staff only areas
- Leaving the group or classroom unsupervised
- Using inappropriate language towards any fellow zoo camper or staff member
- Any physical aggression towards fellow zoo campers, staff, or animals.
- Consistently disruptive behavior that prevents zoo staff from effectively supervising or teaching

Zoo camp staff implements a three strike rule for minor violations.

- 1st Strike: The camper will receive a verbal warning and the behavior will be discussed; If the camper receives multiple verbal warnings or the camp counselor deems it necessary, the camper will sit out from the current activity.
- 2nd Strike: The camper will be removed from the activity and a parent/guardian will be notified.
- 3rd Strike: In severe cases, the camper will be sent home immediately and not be allowed to participate in the remainder of the zoo camp session.

Parents and/or Guardians will be notified of any behaviors we deem to be seriously disruptive or unsafe. Depending on the severity of the issue, the Utica Zoo reserves the right to dismiss or suspend a zoo camper for the remainder of the zoo camp session without refund.

II. Medical Protocol

If your child is unable to attend zoo camp due to illness, please contact the zoo in the morning to notify us. The Utica Zoo reserves the right to refuse entry to zoo camp or dismiss a child early if they are exhibiting symptoms that are debilitating or contagious. These symptoms include, but are not limited to, fever, severe coughing, vomiting, symptoms of pink eye, symptoms of lice, or severe rash. If your child has a non-contagious illness or chronic condition, please notify zoo staff. Please note there are no refunds given for missed days due to illness or medical appointments.

If your child has an allergy or condition that requires the use of an emergency response medication, such as an epipen or inhaler, please also notify the zoo staff. These medications must be placed in a Ziploc bag that is clearly labelled with their name and dosage. To best accommodate campers with severe allergies, we do not provide any items for snack that contain and/or are produced in a factory that contains peanuts or tree nuts. However, we cannot guarantee that other campers do not bring these products in with them for their lunch/snack. We do set up a table during lunch break for peanut-free lunches when necessary.