



# SUMMER CAMP HANDBOOK



## CONTACT US

**Email:** Camps@  
BrandywineZoo.org

**Brandywine Zoo  
Education Department**  
1001 North Park Drive,  
Wilmington DE 19802

**Main Camp Phone**  
302 - 407 - 4408

**Zoo General Phone**  
302 - 571 - 7788

Speak with the Zoo's  
administrative assistant, who  
will then contact camp staff.

**Afterhours**  
302 - 407 - 4409

The Zoo camp office is  
often empty during check  
out. Use this number to  
reach our staff from 3-4 PM.

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# REGISTRATION

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Our summer Camp is designed to provide children the opportunity to spend the summer outside at the Zoo learning about animals, zoos, and wildlife conservation. Through our Summer Camp program we hope to inspire the next generation of wildlife conservationists and stewards of our natural world.

*To register for camp, visit:  
[https://brandywinezoo.campbrain  
registration.com/](https://brandywinezoo.campbrainregistration.com/)*

## MORE DETAILS AND POLICIES

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In accordance with Delaware Health and Social Services, all Registration Forms (Household Information, Camper Profile Form, and Medical Information Form found on the Camp Registration Parent Portal) must be completed for each camper. All completed forms must be received no later than two (2) weeks prior to your child's first day of camp.

NOTE: Delaware State Parks Camp registration forms and paper copies of past Brandywine Zoo registration forms will not be accepted.

Payment is due in FULL at time of registration for camp. Campers may not attend if an outstanding balance exists. This may include, but is not limited to, outstanding payments for weeks of camp or late pick-up charges.

Refunds: Six or more weeks from camp start - full refund, Four weeks from camp start - 50% refund. Two weeks from camp start - no refunds will be given. Email [Camps@BrandywineZoo.org](mailto:Camps@BrandywineZoo.org) to request a refund. A \$15 processing fee will apply.





## WHAT TO EXPECT

Camp focuses on the topic for the week and instructor have activities planned to match. Depending on the camp, and the age of the camper, activities may include tours of the zoo, crafts, games, keeper talks, "behind the scenes" tours, and encounters with our education animals. Your child can expect to learn and have fun while they are at the Brandywine Zoo!

## CAMPERS AND COUNSELORS

Campers must be within the age range listed for each selected camp by the first day of that camp week.

Campers must be able to use public restrooms without any assistance.

Brandywine Zoo Camps are well staffed by a mixture of paid staff, interns, and volunteers. Our camps meet or exceed the minimum counselor to camper ratio set forth by Delaware Health and Social Services for day camp programs.

All camp staff, interns, and volunteers must go through a Delaware State Parks background check. Parents and guardians are not allowed to join camp groups.

## DROP-OFF/PICK-UP

Campers are to be dropped-off and picked-up outside the Education Building following the **Zoo Camp Drop-off route** (see page 10).

### Drop off: 8:30-9 AM

Camp staff will wait at the curb in front of the Education Building with sign-in sheets to greet your camper in the drop-off line. Please make sure your child has been checked in with a zoo staff member before leaving.

### Pick-up: 3-3:30 PM (Mini camp pick up is 11:30-noon)

Camp staff will greet you at your vehicle in the pick-up line. Campers will only be released to adults listed in that camper's Designated Pick-up List. Those picking-up must present a **valid photo ID** everyday.

### Late Pick-ups

Campers who are not picked up on time will be charged a late fee of \$10 per camper for each 5 minutes you are late.

### Late Arrival/Early Pick-up

Late arrivals and early pick-ups will need to park and walk to the Education Building front door to sign-in or out. Please notify camp staff as early as possible by email at [Camps@BrandywineZoo.org](mailto:Camps@BrandywineZoo.org). There is no refund for camp days missed.

***Remember to follow the Drop-off/Pick-up route found on page 10 of this handbook, and have the adult picking up bring their photo ID everyday.***



## CAMP RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

The Brandywine Zoo is committed to ensuring that all campers who attend Zoo Camp are provided a fun atmosphere where they can learn free of harassment or intimidation

- You and your camper are urged to inform any member of the Zoo staff of any conduct that is offensive or in contradiction to the Zoo's commitment to a harassment-free environment.
- All participants are expected to show respect for animals, teachers, fellow campers, themselves, Zoo staff, guests, and the facilities.
- Disruptive or dangerous behaviors and physical aggression are not acceptable.

Children who are extremely disruptive or exhibit unsafe behavior will face consequences as outlined in our Zoo Camp Disciplinary Policy and repeat offenses may result in the expulsion from camp

***Brandywine Zoo Camp Rules:***  
***1) Listen and follow directions***  
***2) Participate in camp activities***  
***3) Respect other campers and the animals***  
***4) Respect the Zoo and the camp room***  
***5) HAVE FUN!***

## CAMP T-SHIRTS

For camper safety, and to promote group cohesion, all campers will be required to wear a Brandywine Zoo Camp T-shirt everyday of camp.

Your camper(s) will receive one camp t-shirt for each camp week they are registered for. Additional t-shirts may be purchased during registration, through the camp registration website after registering, or on the first day of camp for \$10 each.

Camp shirts will be handed out on the first day of camp your child attends, or during designated shirt pick up days in May.

# DISCIPLINARY POLICY

*All medications must be given to camp staff upon arrival (no medications can be stored in cubbies or lunchboxes).*

## MEDICATIONS

Camp staff is not permitted to administer medication to your child. Zoo Campers may self-administer prescription medication including asthma inhalers and Epi-pens with parent/guardian permission and doctor's note. Campers may self-administer sunscreen and/ or insect repellent without doctor's order.

Please make sure your child knows the correct dosage and how to use or apply the medication, as employees are prohibited from removing medication from its container.

Parents or guardians sending medications to camp should add it to the camper's Medical Information form on the registration website.

All medications must be given to camp staff immediately upon arrival (no medications should be stored in lunchboxes or backpacks).

All medications should be provided with original labels and will be stored in a secure location.

Inhalers/Epi-pens must have the camper's name on them, and will be kept with the camper's counselor at all times.

Disrespectful behavior, foul or hurtful language, and violence toward camp staff, fellow campers and animals will not be tolerated. Bullying of any type, whether physical or emotional, will not be tolerated.

If it becomes necessary to take disciplinary action against a camper, the steps following steps may occur:

**1st incident:** verbal warning and an explanation as to why their behavior is inappropriate.

**2nd incident:** Staff will determine an appropriate consequence for the camper's actions (examples may include exclusion from participating in an activity). The camper's parents/guardians will be notified of their behavior during pick-up.

**3rd incident:** The child will be excused from camp without a tuition refund.

The Staff of the Brandywine Zoo, Delaware State Parks, and the Delaware Zoological Society reserve the right to bar any child from camps following a first incident in cases of serious behavior problems, including situations involving violence (or threats of violence) of any kind, stealing, or possession of drugs/alcohol/weapons.



# CAMPERS WITH DIFFERING ABILITIES AND SPECIFIC NEEDS

The Brandywine Zoo Camp strives to meet the needs of all children. While we are a traditional camp (not specialized for specific exceptionalities), we welcome all children and do our very best to accommodate every child. In order for us to be able to help your child have an enjoyable experience at camp, we ask that you notify us of your child's differing abilities and specific needs prior to your child's first day of camp via the Camper Profile or Medical Information forms on the registration website. This may include information on allergies, accessibility concerns, behavioral, psychological or emotional conditions, or other differing abilities and needs.

Any pertinent information you provide will only be shared with the appropriate Zoo Camp Staff. You may also want to include "hints" or "tips" for relating to your camper in the Camper Profile. For example: their interests, what they are most comfortable with, or talking points to better relate with them.

The Brandywine Zoo provides a caring staff knowledgeable in their subjects and interested in working with children; however we are not able to provide staff trained in specialized medical, physical or behavioral needs, nor does it have additional staff for one-on-one support or care. If your child requires an aide at school or a paraprofessional, he/she may not attend camp without a pre-authorized aide or worker.

Our camp takes place in a highly stimulating environment both in the classroom and on zoo grounds. Children are expected to stay with a group, care for their own basic needs and participate in camp activities with children of the same age group. We host an active, outdoor camp and thus our program might not be suitable for every camper. However, the Brandywine Zoo Camp will make every effort to meet the needs of all campers.

Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or to provide additional information to help us meet your child's individual needs.





# ANIMAL CONTACT POLICY

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Campers will have opportunities for up-close encounters with Education Ambassador Animals each day. Our Ambassadors are not typically on public display and are brought out only for educational programs and special presentations. Campers will get an up-close experience during these presentations.

While some Ambassador Animals are able to be touched in a controlled setting, not all animals may be touchable based upon the species, number of campers, and camper behavior.

Touching Ambassador Animals may or may not be possible due to Covid restrictions. This is subject to change.

Campers are expected to remain calm and respectful during animal presentations.

For the safety of all there is no direct contact with exhibit animals other than the animals in the Barnyard area (goats, chickens) when the Barnyard is open to guests.

Campers who violate the Animal Contact Policy will be disciplined as outlined in our Camp Disciplinary Policy.

## LUNCHTIME AND SNACKS

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We require that campers bring a packed lunch, and a reusable water bottle everyday.

Lunch takes place at approximately 12 PM - those attending mini camp (4-5 years old) should not bring lunch.

We will have two snack breaks each day: one in the morning and one in the afternoon. If you would like your camper to have snacks for those times, please provide easily transportable snacks as snack time can take place anywhere throughout the park.

- Lunches and snacks should be portable and easily stored in a cubby.
- No microwave or refrigeration is available for camper lunches.
- To minimize waste, please pack food in reusable containers

Campers may pack nut related items, such as peanut butter, but may have assigned seating during lunch time to accommodate campers with food allergies

Campers with medical needs, such as hypoglycemia, food allergies, etc should be noted in the Medical Information section of the registration website.

***We require that ALL full day campers bring a packed lunch, and a reusable water bottle everyday.***



## CAMPER ILLNESS

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The Brandywine Zoo reserves the right to refuse entrance to camp or send a camper home for any medical issue. No reimbursements will be provided for early dismissals.

For the well-being of your camper and the safety of other campers in our program, if your camper shows signs or symptoms of issues including, but not limited to, lice, severe coughing or complaints of pain, pink eye, sore throat, vomiting, you will be asked to pick up your child immediately.

In the event a camper becomes ill, camp staff will notify the parent/guardian listed on the Registration Packet followed by those listed as emergency contacts, if parents or guardians cannot be reached.

We will follow the guidelines regarding any contagious diseases, including Covid, set for camp by Delaware Division of Public Health and Governor John Carney, as well recommendations made by the American Camp Association, the CDC, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

We will also follow any protocols regarding the health and safety of the animals living at the Brandywine Zoo as set by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the USDA. The following protocols are currently in place for our camps. As recommendations change, these protocols may also change. We will update you of any changes that may occur via email.

- Campers should note their temperature and symptoms for two weeks before the start of camp and each day of camp, and must stay home if they are sick or experience any Covid related symptoms.
- Masks may be required for some behind the scenes experiences for our older groups (ages 10+). Campers attending these experiences without masks will be provided a disposable mask to use.
- Cleaning protocols will include disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, hard surfaces, and the general camp space.

These details are all subject to change, in following guidance from DE Department of Health and Social Services, the CDC, AZA, and USDA.



# ZOO GIFT SHOP TRIP

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On the Friday of each camp week, there will be an optional trip to our gift shop, the Zootique. Your camper will have the option of shopping for souvenirs. Mini camps (4-5 year olds) will not visit the gift shop.

If you would like your camper to shop during this time, please provide them with a sealed envelope (to be handed to their counselor at drop-off, and kept with the counselor until reaching the gift shop) labeled with:

- Camper Name
- Amount of money enclosed (CASH ONLY)
- Brandywine Zoo Member number (if applicable)

The Brandywine Zoo is not responsible for misplaced money not handed to counselors at Friday drop-off.

All purchases will be put in each camper's cubby and not opened during camp.

## How much should I send with my camper?

The average amount spent by campers in our store is \$10 to \$15.

Unused money will be returned in a sealed envelope or bag.



*Make sure to label all items your camper brings with their full name!*

## WHAT TO BRING

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- Zoo camp t-shirt everyday (see page 4)
- Appropriate clothing for the weather, we will be outdoors most of the day.
- Close-toed and heeled shoes that are comfortable to walk or run in.
- A reusable water bottle.
- A packed, portable, eco-friendly lunch (using reusable containers) every day

### Optional Items

- Two snacks
- Sunscreen.
- A full change of clothes (in case of games involving water or mud, as well as in case of bathroom accidents).
- Medications (if needed; see the Medications sections on page 5.

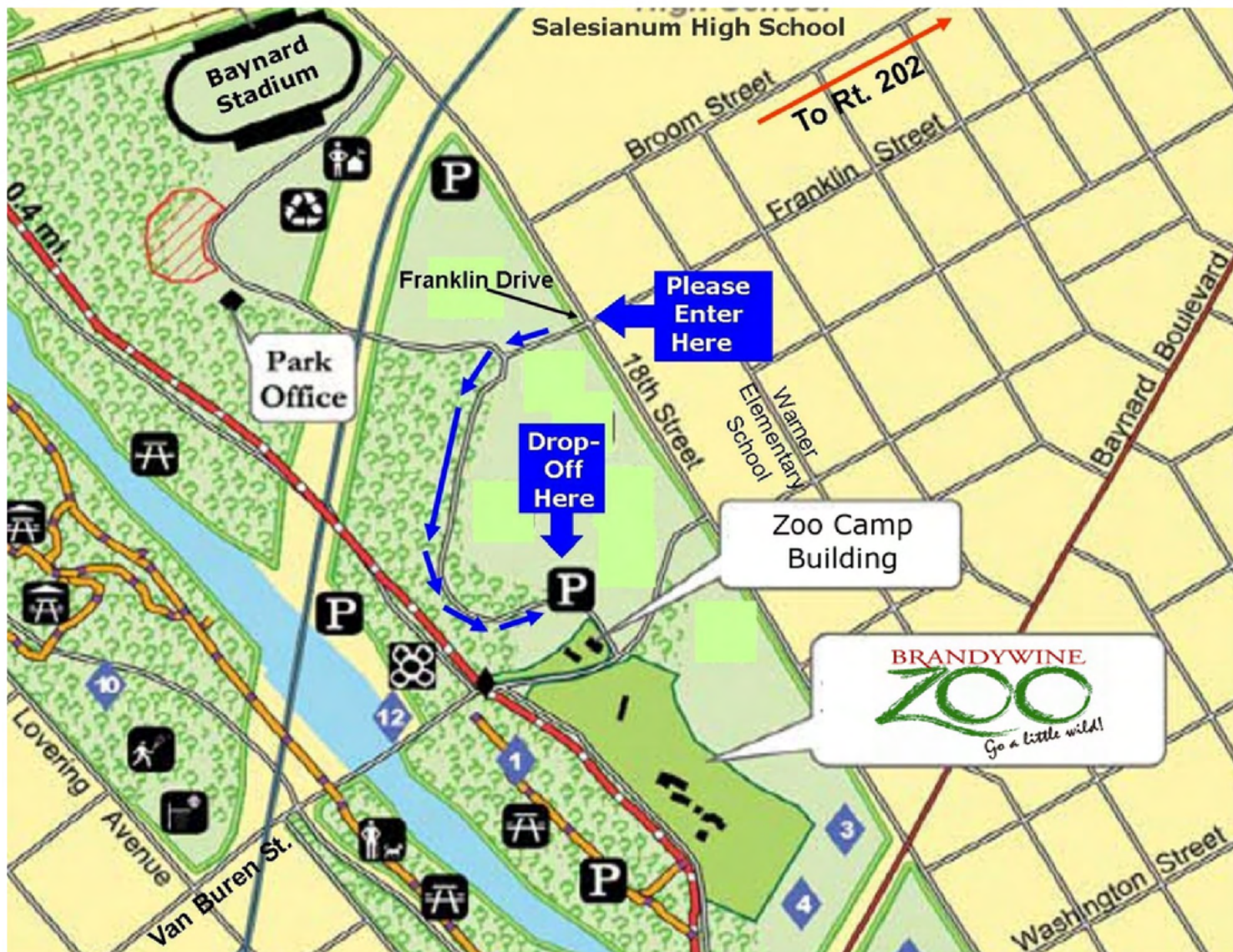
## WHAT NOT TO BRING

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- Soda or energy drinks.
- Electronics such as hand held games, iPods, cell phones, etc.
- Personal items such as toys, games, cards, stuffed animals, etc.
- Money (unless specifically for the gift shop visit on Friday - please give this money to camp staff during drop-off).
- Any other valuables or items that would upset your camper if they were to get lost.
- Shoes with wheels, such as Heelys or roller sneakers.

The Brandywine Zoo is not responsible for camper's lost, damaged, or stolen items.

# DROP-OFF/PICK-UP ROUTE



## From Downtown Wilmington:

1. Take Delaware Ave to Van Buren St.
2. Cross the Van Buren St. Bridge. (cobblestone road)
3. Follow Van Buren St. all the way up the hill to the intersection of 18th St.
4. Turn LEFT onto 18th St.
5. Drive past playground and turn LEFT onto Franklin Drive (across from Franklin St. Look for Zoo Camp directional signs.)
6. Follow Franklin Drive through the park and around to the LEFT. If you stay left this will loop you around to the Brandywine Zoo's Education Parking lot. This is where you will need to drop off your camper in the morning. Here an education staff member will greet you and you will be able to drop-off your camper(s) right from your vehicle!

The Education Parking lot will NOT be accessible by vehicle off of Van Buren Street (cobblestone road) during drop-off and pick-up time periods.

Please stay in the car line and remain in your vehicle throughout Drop-off and Pick-up. DO NOT park in the Education Parking lot.

NOTE: Franklin Drive does not appear on Google Maps.

## 4-5 YEAR OLD MINI CAMPS (9-11:30AM)

**Sensory Safari:** Spend the week on a sensory safari discovering the fantastic five senses and how both animals and people use them to explore their world!

**Z is for Zoo:** A is for armadillos, B is for bobcats, and C is for condors! Discover the amazing animals of this world, from A to Z!

## 6-7 YEAR OLD CAMPS (9AM-3PM)

**Animal Super Powers:** Animals have some amazing super powers to help them survive in their environments! Learn about different animal adaptations and then design your very own animal superhero.

**Beastly Feasts:** Ever wonder what's on the menu for our zoo animals? Join us as we learn about carnivores, herbivores, omnivores, and more! Each day will focus on a different type of eater, with fun crafts, games, and tours through the zoo.

**Wildlife Myth Busters:** Can chameleons change colors? Can porcupines shoot their quills? Discover what is real and bust the myths of the animal kingdom!

## 8-9 YEAR OLD CAMPS (9AM-3PM)

**Legendary Creatures:** Unicorns, dragons, and bigfoot, oh my! Discover the legends of mythical creatures and the real-life animals they are inspired by, then invent a mythical creature of your own!

**Art Safari:** Discover and be inspired by the amazing art created by animals, or of animals, around the world! Everyday we'll make art inspired by wild artists while exploring different mediums.

**ZOlympics:** Every day in the animal kingdom is a competition for survival! Come and learn which animal will take the gold medal for strongest, fastest, sneakiest, or most agile, and try out your skills in our own Summer Zoolympic Games!

June 10-14

August 19-23

June 24-28  
or  
August 5-9

July 22-26

July 15-19  
or  
August 12-16

June 17-21

July 8-12

July 29-Aug 2





## 10-11 YEAR OLD CAMPS (9AM-3PM)

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**Wild Designs:** How do you build a zoo? What makes a great animal habitat? How do keepers prepare exhibits for more than one species? Learn about what zookeepers do to take care of animals and plan exhibits, then design an exhibit of your own!

**Animal Investigators:** Investigate the world of animal science! Campers will get hands-on as they examine biofacts, conduct an animal dissection, and go behind-the-scenes to learn about the technology zoo keepers and scientists use to better understand animals in our care and in the wild.

## 12-14 YEAR OLD CAMP (9AM-3PM)

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**Jr Zoo Keepers:** Ever wonder what being a zookeeper really involves? Discover how our animals are cared for, practice your husbandry skills cleaning an animal habitat, prepare animal diets, create enrichment, and visit behind-the-scenes to see how the zoo really works!

## COSTS PER WEEK

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**4-5 Year Old Mini Camps:** \$145

**6-7, 8-9 Year Old Camps:** \$260

**10-11, 12-14 Year Old Camps:** \$360

**Brandywine Zoo Members receive \$30 off each full day week and \$20 off each half day week.**

**June 24-28**

**July 22-26**

**July 1-5  
or  
July 8-12  
or  
August 5-9**