ZOO Education Programs

Spring 2022

For more information or to register for programs
http://cincinnatizoo.org/education/
Discover how to "talk" to animals! Campers will be training new behaviors with some of our Zoo animal ambassadors. Learn about animal behavior and motivation while applying training techniques taught by Zoo professionals. By the end of camp, animals will be eating out of your hands, literally!

**Dates:** March 28–April 1, 2022 or April 4–8, 2022 from 9am–4pm

**Beauty and the Beast**  
(4 Year Olds–Kindergarteners)  
Some animals are more than meets the eye. From beautiful butterflies and parrots to beastly binturongs and bats, we’ll see why looks can be deceiving and learn why there are just as many reasons (if not more) to love the beasts as the beauties. By the end, we will learn that there is beauty in every beast.

**Blend, Bolt or Bite!**  
(1st–2nd Grade)  
Animals can behave in different ways when faced with danger! They can: blend in, bolt out of sight or turn and bite! Discover the tricky ways animals keep safe in this week-long camp that features up-close animal encounters and opportunities for excitement around every corner!

**Animagination**  
(3rd–4th Grade)  
From Fantastic Beasts and Pokemon Go to Angry Birds and Pete’s Dragon, there sure are a lot of magical, mythical creatures in movies and media! Come to this camp and we’ll learn about some of the real-life inspirations for these fantastical beasts, uncover some amazing adaptations of actual wildlife and then use what we learn plus our imaginations to “discover” and present a new species of our own creation.

**Dr. Zoolittle’s Animal Training Camp**  
(5th–6th Grade)  
Discover how to “talk” to animals! Campers will be training new behaviors with some of our Zoo animal ambassadors. Learn about animal behavior and motivation while applying training techniques taught by Zoo professionals. By the end of camp, animals will be eating out of your hands, literally!

**Mini-Maynard Training Camp**  
(7th–8th Grade)  
Join us for a week-long adventure and discover what it takes to become a future Zoo director! Our Zoo director Thane Maynard is known as a wildlife expert, a naturalist, author and is a regular on T.V. shows promoting wildlife conservation. Campers will experience the many different jobs Thane has done on the way to becoming our zoo director. Campers will learn about animal handling, meet ambassador animals up-close and create a “90-second naturalist” podcast of their own on their way to becoming the next Zoo director. So watch out Thane!!

**Spring Break Camp**

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Summer Camp Full Day

Full Day Camps include a summer camp T-shirt, snacks (campers pack lunch), games, hikes, animal encounters, crafts, group projects, animal feedings, animal shows, train rides, keeper talks, and so much more!

**Catch Me If You Can (4 Year Olds-Kindergarteners)**
Do you think you can catch these critters? Discover what it means to be a predator or prey animal and how they use their adaptations to try and outwit, outrun, and hide from each other! Come and explore their wild worlds and help uncover their sneaky, stealthy secrets through interactive games, hikes through the zoo and close encounters with animal ambassadors.

**Zooper Heroes (1st-2nd Grade)**
A bird that can fly at speeds of 200mph? A cat that can leap 12 feet into the air? Animals can be out of this world when it comes to their super adaptations. Come to summer camp and discover these animals and their incredible superpowers. Each day, we will look at a superhero with amazing superpowers and then see if our Zoo animals can measure up to their spectacular abilities. The camp will include Zoo hikes, games and up-close live animal encounters.

**Choose Your Own Adventure: Expedition Naturalist (3rd-4th Grade)**
Campers will get a chance to become Naturalists as they choose their destiny through different expeditions. These expeditions will traverse them through the world’s different biomes. As they complete each expedition, they will become equipped with the knowledge and the tools it takes to become a real naturalist.

**Exploring Enrichment (5th-6th Grade)**
What do boomer balls, spices, braided butcher paper, and fish-sicles have in common? They are all different forms of animal enrichment! Animal enrichment provides stimulation to our Zoo animals and serves as an important tool that keeps their minds and bodies healthy. In this camp, we will learn about the different forms of animal enrichment, who and what they are good for, and the role of the Zoo’s enrichment committee in all of this through animal encounters, keeper interactions, games, and other activities. We will even get a chance to participate in the creation of some animal enrichment and brainstorm new enrichment ideas to present to the enrichment committee.

**Working with Wildlife (7th-8th Grade)**
Animal keepers, field researchers, forensic zoologists, animal trainers...the list goes on and on when it comes to jobs that work with wildlife. We’ll meet some people who work with wildlife and some of the critters they work with. This is a hands-on class, so be prepared to get knee or elbow-deep in exploration of some of the jobs and tools of the trade that come with a wildlife-related career! Participants will even get the opportunity to write and record animal-related podcasts that might be selected to be on the Zoo’s website!

**All sessions meet 9am–4pm, Monday–Friday**

*Before Care 8am–9am*
*After Care 4–5:30pm*
Become a backyard biologist while exploring our fields, forests, and wetlands out at our 600 acre Bowyer Farm! Campers will spend time learning what it takes to protect our wild spaces through hands-on activities such as bird watching, plant identification, and animal tracking. Our adventure filled camp will encourage campers to get back in touch with their wild side, while building confidence as they hone their naturalist skills. On Friday, your camper will lead you on a nature hike to show off their new skills.

Note: This camp takes place at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden’s Bowyer Farm, 2210 Mason Montgomery Road, Mason, OH 45040.

This full day camp is for children entering 5th, 6th, 7th, or 8th grade in the fall. Groups will be subdivided based on grade.

**Eco-Explorers at Bowyer Farm**

(5th–8th Grade)

All sessions meet 9am–4pm, Monday–Friday

Half Day Camps include a summer camp T-shirt, snacks, games, hikes, animal encounters, crafts, group projects, animal feedings, keeper talks, and so much more! No Before Care or After Care options available with Half Day Camps.

**Sensational Senses**

Can you talk like an elephant or taste with your feet like a butterfly? Explore what sensory adaptations animals have and how these adaptations help them survive. We’ll spend the week looking at our five senses and seeing how they compare to other animals through close encounters with animal friends, interactive games, crafts, and hikes in the Zoo.

**Bringing Up Baby**

Do other animals live in families like humans? Are all babies raised by their moms? During this camp, we’ll experience up-close animal encounters, make crafts, and, of course, hike around the Zoo to learn about why it can take mom, dad, pack, or no one at all to raise a baby animal.

**Sensational Senses**

- Sensory adaptations of animals
- Close encounters
- Interactive games
- Crafts
- Hikes

**Bringing Up Baby**

- Animal families
- Up-close encounters
- Crafts
- Hikes

**Animal Chatter**

- Communication: smell, facial expressions, sound
- Interactive activities

**Growing Up**

- Life cycles of animals
- Insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals
- Group projects

**Eco-Explorers at Bowyer Farm**

(5th–8th Grade)

All sessions meet 9am–4pm, Monday–Friday

A.M. Sessions meet 9:30am–12pm, Monday–Friday
P.M. Sessions meet 1–3:30pm, Monday–Friday

Summer Camp Half Day

1st–2nd Grade

Animal Chatter

Why is that lion roaring? What is that bird chirping about? This camp will explore animals and how they “talk” to each other. Join us for a fun-filled week, where campers will discover what animals are communicating, through smell (gross), facial expressions, and sound.

Growing Up

What do pollwogs, cubs, and owlets have in common? They’re all babies! Spend a week learning how animals change and grow from the time they’re born until they reach adulthood. Each activity-packed day will help us discover how insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals grow.

A.M. Sessions meet 9:30am–12pm, Monday–Friday
P.M. Sessions meet 1–3:30pm, Monday–Friday
Our world has animals, big and small, that call it home. From a tiny tadpole to a giant giraffe, animals come in all shapes and sizes! Come to this four-week series where you and your child will explore the zoo to discover the itty-bitty insects, the gentle giants, and everything in between! Each week we will discover these animals through live animal encounters, zoo hikes, and dramatic play.

**Toddlers**

**All Animals Great and Small**

Dates: Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for four weeks in April–May*  
*Note: One adult must accompany children attending Toddler series. Toddler series is for children 18–36 months old.

**Pre-K**

**Backyard Buddies**

From rabbits hopping around during the day to skunks scurrying around at night, have you ever wondered what creatures live just outside your door? Throughout this Zoo Troop journey, we will learn how to explore our own backyards to find our animal neighbors! Each week we will meet animals face to face in the classroom and out in Zoo as we learn how to share our spaces with them!

Dates: Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for four weeks in April–May*  
*Note: One adult must accompany children attending Pre-K series.
Explore the continent that we call home. From sea to shining sea, North America is filled with unique places for us to live. Animals have found ways to call this land home, too! During this four-week series, we’ll take a road trip from coast to coast through playful activities, Zoo hikes and live animal encounters.

**Home Sweet Home**

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks in April–May

What do bees, bears, bobcats, and beavers all have in common besides the letter “B”? They all live pretty close to you and me! Some of the world's coolest critters can be found in your own backyard. During this four-week series, we’ll take an in-depth look at a few of North America’s most exciting inhabitants through observation-based activities, Zoo hikes, and live animal encounters.

**Native Neighbors**

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks in April–May
3rd and 4th Grade

Who’s Awake?
Day shift, night shift, in between shift, animals have adapted their activity levels to share space with each other. in this four-week series, we will explore nocturnal, diurnal, and crepuscular lifestyles, the adaptations that go with each, and how native wildlife utilize these activity strategies to reduce competition for resources in shared habitats. Each week will bring new and exciting encounters both with classroom animal visitors and Zoo hike animals, fun games, and hands-on activities to tie it all together.

Dates: Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks in April–May

5th and 6th Grade

Eco-Explorer
Tracks, scat, skulls, nests, scratch marks, calls, scent marks, and more. Animals are not always easy to see and, sometimes, neither is the evidence they leave behind. With weekly investigations focusing on the different ways animals leave clues, we’ll work on honing our own observational skills and learn to use those clues to identify the animals they belong to, even when we cannot spy them.

Dates: Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks in April–May
Learning to be a naturalist is all about honing your observation skills. During this four-week series, we will focus on using inquiry and participatory learning to observe, ask questions, and uncover some cool information about our native wildlife. After we have practiced and honed our inquiry skills, this class will culminate in participants engaging Zoo visitors in collecting research on a question of their own design.

### Naturalist Notebook

**Dates:** Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks in April–May

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**Hurray for Mom!**

**Dates:** May 7, 2022 from 10–11:30am

Many animals (including humans) have close relationships with their mothers. From the gentle jaws of an alligator to the comfy pouch of a wallaby, come and learn about our zoo moms as we prepare to celebrate all moms on tomorrow’s holiday just for them.
The concepts of “going green” have come down on the green and building industries in a big way in recent years and a lot of argument over the meaning of sustainability and the means of achieving it has ensued. This program is designed to sort out fact from fiction regarding such issues as soils, irrigation, and the very best low input plants for landscaping applications.

Note: CEUs available. Includes lunch. Virtual and in-person options available.

**Dates:** March 10, 9am–5pm

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**Sustainable Urban Landscaping Symposium**

You are invited to this unique event with friends, fellow gardeners, and lovers of landscape set against a backdrop of 120,000 magnificent tulips and flowering plants in peak spring bloom. This event will bring together community members and leaders passionate about growing our region and the opportunity to impact the Cincinnati landscape at one of the city’s most treasured attractions.

**Dates:** April 13, 6–9pm

**Native Plant Sales**

Located at the Zoo’s Bowyer Farm (2210 Mason Montgomery Road, Lebanon, OH), these sales offer a wide selection of reasonably priced, well-grown, hard to find, and ecologically important native plants. Native plants, including ones found throughout the Bowyer Farm ecosystem, will be for sale.

**Spring Dates:** Saturdays—April 23, May 14, & May 28, 9am–1pm
Experience the Zoo after the public has gone home for the evening! We offer a variety of experiences for various audiences: Sunset Safaris, Overnight adventures, and Private Cart Tours.

Private Cart Tours
Imagine spending an evening at the Zoo, zipping around to your favorite destinations. This two-hour private tour will take you and five of your friends all around the Zoo—choose-your-own adventure style. Led by an experienced Zoo Educator, your group will learn all about the Zoo, its amazing animals, conservation projects, and more! Come ready to ask questions and get the inside scoop.

You and your group will book out an entire cart. The carts can accommodate groups of up to 6 attendees. Attendees must be at least 12 years old at the time of a program. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Join us as we say “goodnight” to some daytime animals and “good morning” to some of our nighttime friends. You and your family will experience live animal encounters, an evening hike, and even a behind-the-scenes sneak peek into what it’s like caring for some of our magnificent animals.

Note: All participants, including adults, must register. Children must be at least 5 years old at time of the program.

Dates:
April 22nd & 30th | May 13th & 21st

Family Sunset Safari: Goodnight Zoo
Join us as we say “goodnight” to some daytime animals and “good morning” to some of our nighttime friends. You and your family will experience live animal encounters, an evening hike, and even a behind-the-scenes sneak peek into what it’s like caring for some of our magnificent animals.

Note: All participants, including adults, must register. Children must be at least 5 years old at time of the program.

Dates: April 22nd & 30th | May 13th & 21st

Adult Sunset Safari: The African Sundowner
Join us for a two-part adventure! An interactive social hour with drinks and a visit from a unique animal is just the beginning. Then, small tour groups led by Zoo Educators will explore the Zoo after hours. Discover our amazing African wildlife and conservation stories through a night hike and get up-close with live animal encounters. This experience also includes behind-the-scenes sneak peeks into what it’s like to care for these African animals.

Note: All attendees must be 21+ at time of program. Spots are limited.

Dates: April 1st & 16th | May 20th & 28th

School and Group Sunset Safaris & Overnight Adventures
Have your school or group join us for a night full of exploration! Take night hikes, participate in fun, educational activities, get behind-the-scenes sneak peeks, and meet some of our animal ambassadors up-close and personal. Extend your adventure by turning your Sunset Safari into an Overnight Adventure. These programs are perfect for schools, scouts, youth groups, clubs, and more!

Dates: Offered Wednesday–Saturday nights, March–November

Make your date request online!
Wild Chats for Community Groups

Do you want to bring something wild to your next event? Wild Chat virtual programs are hosted live by a Zoo Educator and include pre-recorded interviews with staff around the Zoo. We provide programs to schools, birthday parties, scout meetings, nursing homes, libraries, community events, festivals, and more!

Virtual Programs

Make the Zoo Your Campus!
The Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) is a master’s degree track that combines web-based courses through Miami University with unique experiences at the Zoo. This one-of-a-kind graduate program is designed for environmental and education professionals, as well as anyone who has a vested interest in our natural world. Connected to a broad network of “kindred spirits” across the country, our students develop their inquiry-driven investigative skills while striving to create positive change for conservation and local communities. Applications for the next cohort will open in September 2022.

Not too sure about a full master’s program yet? Need college credit for professional development? Try out a standalone graduate course with us instead!

For more information or to apply, check out cincinnatizoo.org/AIP.
For more information or to register for programs http://cincinnatizoo.org/education/