

# ZOO

## Education Programs

Spring 2024



For more information or  
to register for programs  
<http://cincinnatizoo.org/education/>



# Spring Break Camp

**DATES:** March 25–29 or April 1–5, 2024

**TIMES:** 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday

**PRICING:** 4yr–6th grade: \$275 Members | \$290 Non-members

7th–8th grade: \$285 Members | \$300 Non-members

## 4 Year Olds-Kindergarteners Beauty and the Beast

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 why there are just as many reasons (if not more) to love the beasts as the beauties. By the end of the week, we will learn that there is beauty in every beast.

## 1st-2nd Grade Blend, Bolt, or Bite

Animals 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.

## 3rd-4th Grade Animagination

There are plenty of magical and mythical creatures in movies and media! This week we'll learn about the real-life inspirations for these fantastical beasts, uncover some amazing adaptations of actual wildlife and then combine our newfound knowledge and imaginations to "discover" and present a new species of our own creation.

## 5th-6th Grade Dr. Zoolittle's Animal Training Camp

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!

## 7th-8th Grade Mini-Maynard Training Camp

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, 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. Watch out, Thane!

**After Care**  
**March 25–29**  
**or April 1–5**

4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Pricing: \$65/week



# Summer Camp Full Day

**DATES:** May 27–31      June 24–28      July 22–26  
June 3–7      July 1–5      July 29–Aug 2  
June 10–14      July 8–12      Aug 5–9  
June 17–21      July 15–19      Aug 12–16

**TIMES:** 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday

**PRICING:** 4yr–6th grade: \$300 Members | \$315 Non-members  
7th–8th grade: \$310 Members | \$325 Non-members

Explore the Zoo, experience nature, and discover the excitement and wonder of animals! Hikes in the Zoo, visits from animal ambassadors, crafts, train rides, and so much more make Summer Camp a jam-packed week to remember! Every camper receives a Summer Camp t-shirt.

## 4 Year Olds-Kindergarteners Catch Me If You Can?

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 to outwit, outrun, and hide from each other! Explore their wild worlds and uncover their sneaky, stealthy secrets through interactive games, hikes through the Zoo, and up-close encounters with animal ambassadors.

## 1st-2nd Grade Zoooper Heroes

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 super-powers. Each day, we will look at a superhero with amazing super powers, 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.

## 3rd-4th Grade Expedition Naturalist

Campers will become naturalists as they choose their own adventure with 5 daily expeditions. Each expedition will traverse through the world's different biomes. As campers complete each adventure, they will become equipped with the knowledge and tools it takes to become a real naturalist.

## 5th-6th Grade Exploring Enrichment

What do boomer balls, spices, braided butcher paper, and fish-sicles all have in common? They are different forms of animal enrichment! Enrichment provides stimulation to our Zoo animals keeping 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 through animal encounters, keeper interactions, games, and other activities. We will even create animal enrichment items and brainstorm some new ideas.

## 7th-8th Grade Working with Wildlife

Animal keepers, field researchers, forensic zoologists, animal trainers...the list goes on and on when it comes to jobs that work with wildlife. We will have hands-on animal encounters, meet a variety of speakers, and go on instructor-led hikes to explore habitats around the Zoo. This is a hands-on class, so be prepared to get knee or elbow-deep in exploration of some of the jobs and tools that come with a wildlife-related career! Participants will get the opportunity to write and record an animal-related video.

**Before Care**  
8:00 a.m.–9:00 a.m.  
Pricing: \$55/week

**After Care**  
4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Pricing: \$65/week





# Bowyer Farm Camp

**DATES:** June 3–7; June 10–14; June 17–21; June 24–28

**TIMES:** 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Monday–Friday

**PRICING:** \$310 Members | \$325 Non-members

## 5th–8th Grade Eco-Explorers at Bowyer Farm

Become a backyard biologist exploring fields, forests, and wetlands at our 700-acre Bowyer property! Participants will learn to protect wild spaces through activities such as bird watching, butterfly tagging, and animal tracking. Our camp will encourage your child to get back in touch with their wild side and build 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 a satellite location, the Zoo's Bowyer Property in Mason, OH. Before and After Care is not available for camps hosted at Bowyer Farm.



# Summer Camp Half Day

**TIMES:** 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. **or** 1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**PRICING:** \$175 Members | \$190 Non-members

## 4 Year Olds-Kindergarteners 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 a mom, dad, pack, or no one at all to raise a baby animal.

**DATES:** June 3–7      July 1–5      July 29–Aug 2  
June 17–21      July 15–19      Aug 12–16

## 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.

**DATES:** June 10–14      July 8–12      Aug 5–9  
June 24–28      July 22–26

## 1st–2nd Grade Growing Up

What do polliwogs, 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 day is packed with activities to help discover how insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals grow.

**DATES:** June 3–7      July 1–5      July 29–Aug 2  
June 17–21      July 15–19      Aug 12–16

## Animal Chatter

Have you ever wondered what a lion was roaring about or a 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, facial expressions, and sound.

**DATES:** June 10–14      July 8–12      Aug 5–9  
June 24–28      July 22–26



# Toddlers

## Animals Great and Small

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.

### DATES:

**Tuesdays:** April 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

**Wednesdays:** April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

**Fridays:** April 12, 19, 26 & May 3 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

**Saturdays:** April 13, 20, 27 & May 4 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

*Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for four weeks\**

*\*Note: One adult must accompany children attending Toddler series. Toddler series is for children 18–36 months old.*

### PRICING:

\$85 Members | \$100 Non-members

# 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 animal neighbors! Each week we will meet animals face to face in the classroom and out in the Zoo as we learn how to share our spaces with them!

### DATES:

**Tuesdays:** April 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

**Wednesdays:** April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

**Fridays:** April 12, 19, 26 & May 3 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

**Saturdays:** April 13, 20, 27 & May 4 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

*Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday for four weeks\**

*\*Note: One adult must accompany children attending Pre-K series.*

### PRICING:

\$85 Members | \$100 Non-members





photo by Kathy Newton



photo by Teagan Dumont

# Kindergarten

# 1st and 2nd Grade

## Home Sweet Home

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.

### DATES:

***Tuesdays:*** April 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

***Wednesdays:*** April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

***Saturdays:*** April 13, 20, 27 & May 4 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

*Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks*

### PRICING:

\$90 Members | \$105 Non-members

## Native Neighbors

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.

### DATES:

***Tuesdays:*** April 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

***Wednesdays:*** April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

***Saturdays:*** April 13, 20, 27 & May 4 | 2:00–3:30 p.m.

*Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks*

### PRICING:

\$90 Members | \$105 Non-members



photo by Kathy Newton



photo by Kathy Newton

## 3rd and 4th Grade

### Who's Awake?

Day shift, night shift, in between shifts, 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:

**Tuesdays:** April 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Wednesdays:** April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Saturdays:** April 13, 20, 27 & May 4 | 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

*Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks*

#### PRICING:

\$95 Members | \$110 Non-members

## 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:

**Tuesdays:** April 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Wednesdays:** April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Saturdays:** April 13, 20, 27 & May 4 | 1:30–3:30 p.m.

*Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks*

#### PRICING:

\$95 Members | \$110 Non-members





photo by Kathy Newton

# 7th and 8th Grade

## Naturalist Notebook

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 collection research on a question of their own design.

### DATES:

**Tuesdays:** April 9, 16, 23 & 30 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Wednesdays:** April 10, 17, 24 & May 1 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

**Saturdays:** April 13, 20, 27 & May 4 | 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

*Choose to come every Tuesday, Wednesday, or Saturday for four weeks*

### PRICING:

\$95 Members | \$110 Non-members

# Day & Evening Programs

## Hurray for Mom!

**DATE:** May 11 from 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

**PRICING:** \$20 Members | \$25 Non-members

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 learn about our Zoo moms as we prepare to celebrate all mother figures on tomorrow's holiday just for them.

## Zoo Night Hike: Zoo Families

**DATES:** March 16, April 6, April 26, May 11, May 31

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m.

**PRICING:** \$20 Members | \$25 Non-members

Spring season is for Zoo Babies! Join us on select nights to explore the different families we have at the Zoo. Participate in fun, educational activities, take a Zoo hike while the Zoo is closed, and meet some of our animal ambassadors up-close and personal! All while learning about the current Zoo babies and fun families we have at the Zoo.

**Note:** All attendees 3 years + must register. One adult required per group. All ages welcome.





# Group After Hours Programs

The gates are shut, the lights are down, and everyone has gone home for the day. It's time to discover the Zoo after dark! Go behind closed doors and get up-close with animal encounters, hikes, and games. After a night of adventure, tuck into your sleeping bag overlooking the animals and then wake up the next morning to breakfast and a special animal experience. The fun doesn't have to stop there as next day admission is included and you can explore the Zoo on your own!

Perfect for any group. **Pick your date:** Wednesday–Saturday, January–November (Twiga Tented Safari *April–October only*). All programs: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m. Check out our programs at [cincinnatizoo.org/education/overnights/](https://cincinnatizoo.org/education/overnights/).

## African Predator Prowl

On the African plains, it's survival of the fittest! Discover the adaptations predators have to hunt and how their prey has evolved to give them a fighting chance. We'll observe our incredible African predator and prey species, investigating what it takes for these animals to survive. You'll go behind the scenes to our African animal care staff areas to see how we bring expert care and attention to these extraordinary species. Then after the fun, curl up in our private education classrooms overlooking our rainforest.

## Adventures in Adaptations

Adaptations are the key to life! Join us for a Night at the Zoo, where the magic of animal adaptations comes to life, leaving you with a newfound appreciation for the incredible ways in which wildlife adapts to thrive in their environments. Groups will trek the Zoo on the lookout for adaptations like ears that hear the slightest sounds, eyes that can see in the dark, or whiskers that can feel their way through the inky black. We'll hike, get up-close with our ambassador animals, and even go behind the scenes. Then, after the fun, curl up in our private classrooms overlooking our rainforest.

## Sleep with the Manatees

Florida is full of diverse habitats that are bursting with thousands of animal species, from walking-on-water basilisks to slow-and-steady manatees. We'll dive headfirst into the astonishing biodiversity of these southern habitats, centering around the lives of our resident manatees who are a part of our rehabilitation program with Florida conservation groups. We'll get behind the scenes to see how we care for them, and then learn more about the amazing world we live in. When the night ends, you'll doze off at our Manatee Springs building with manatees floating by your bed.

## Twiga Tented Safari

A truly one-of-a-kind experience, our Twiga Tented Safari will take you across the African grasslands. We'll traverse through Africa, listening to tales of innovation for living harmoniously with wildlife, such as how a flashlight can shield you against lions, or why a puppy raised with goats can save cheetahs. On our safari, we will get behind the scenes of Hippo Cove and uncover secrets of our world-famous bloat. We'll finish up our night at our twiga tents, gathered round a roaring campfire roasting s'mores. Then, this unique adventure ends with a relaxing night in our safari tents on cozy cots and waking up to breakfast overlooking Giraffe Ridge.



# Horticulture Programs

## Landscaping for the Homeowner Series

**DATE:** *Wednesdays, February 7–March 6*

**TIME:** *7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.*

**PRICING:** \$75

Join Steve Foltz, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Director of Horticulture and one of the nation's top horticultural experts, on Zoom for one of the most informative and complete landscape series for homeowners. Perfect for everyone from brand new homeowners to experienced gardeners!

Steve has offered this series for over twenty years, and has many years as an adjunct professor for both U.C.'s and Cincinnati State's horticultural programs. Benefit from his breadth of knowledge and experience on design, trees & shrubs, annuals & perennials, maintenance practices, and much, much more in this informational and inspirational five-part series of two hour sessions. Makes an excellent gift for any new homeowner or garden enthusiast.



## Sustainable Urban Landscapes Symposium

**DATE:** *March 14*

**TIME:** *Doors open at 8:00 a.m. with program 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.*

*Social hour from 5:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m.*

**PRICING:** \$129

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is excited to announce the 12th annual Sustainable Urban Landscapes Symposium. Come and enjoy an upbeat, daylong event with expert speakers from across the region.





# Virtual Programs

## Wild Chats

Bring the Zoo to you! Our Virtual Wild Chats give you an insider's view of the Zoo. Two great topics to choose from, where the learning is brought to life through live Q&A with a program host and pre-recorded videos from around the Zoo.

**DATE:** You choose, Monday–Saturday

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

**PRICING:** \$100–\$150 per program

**WHO:** Schools, libraries, scouts, birthday parties, nursing homes, corporate meetings, and more!

## Topics:

**My BFF(iona):** Get an inside look into the wild and wonderful journey of everyone's favorite hippo, Fiona. Starting life as a 28 lbs premature hippo, Fiona stole hearts around the globe. We'll look at the journey she took with her dedicated animal care staff, learn more about the natural history of wild hippos, and see how Fiona and her bloat are doing today.

**Zoo Careers:** Who does it take to run a Zoo? Zoos are more than just animals and their care staff. Discover the careers it takes to run a Zoo, as we deep dive into 3 careers of your choosing with recorded interviews with the actual staff who make it happen.

