

ZOO

Education Programs

Spring 2025



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



Spring Break Camp

DATES: March 24–28, 2025
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

4 Year Olds-Kindergarteners All in the Family

Keeping track of all the animals in the world is no easy task! In this camp, we'll explore the clues that help us classify reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, and insects into their families. But be ready—some animals don't follow the rules!

1st-2nd Grade Troops, Groups, and Herds

Who is in your “pack”? Is it just your family or are friends allowed, too? Do you eat together, play together, and take care of each other? Did you know some animals live, eat, and hang out in groups together, too? Bring your gaggle, flock, or pride to the Zoo and discover which animals stick together, how they form and maintain their bonds, and how group life helps them to survive.

3rd-4th Grade I Wonder...

Does looking at animals fill you with wonder? Does walking around the Zoo spark a million questions? During this camp we will be the scientists investigating what the Zoo animals are up to. With our inquiring minds and untamed eyes, we will explore animal behaviors through investigations 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, a naturalist, author, and is a regular on T.V. shows promoting wildlife conservation. Campers will experience the many different jobs Thane has had 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 24–28
4:00 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
Pricing: \$65/week



Summer Camp Full Day

DATES: May 26–30 June 23–27 July 21–25
June 2–6 June 30–July 4 July 28–Aug 1
June 9–13 July 7–11 Aug 4–8
June 16–20 July 14–18 Aug 11–15

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

PRICING: 1st–6th grade: \$300 Members | \$315 Non-members
7th–8th grade: \$310 Members | \$325 Non-members

1st-2nd Grade Extreme Animals

Are you extreme enough? Animals are out of this world, equipped with outrageous abilities such as being able to dive a MILE deep into the ocean! Join us as we meet these extreme animals and discover why they must act the way they do. Your camper will explore the animal and plant kingdoms by meeting our ambassadors face-to-face! They will identify their features and decide who is the fastest, strongest, or largest of them all!

1st-2nd Grade Zoo Scene Investigators (ZSI)

Get your detective hats ready—you're on the case! Who left those paw prints behind while trespassing? Does a cheetah need a speeding ticket? A rat snake shakes his tail pretending to be a rattler...is that identity theft? Tackle "Who dun it's" around the Zoo as you learn how to study animal behavior and animal clues in this fun and immersive camp experience!

3rd-4th Grade Choose Your Own Adventure: Animal Rescue

We have an action-packed week planned for your camper. Campers will choose adventures that require teamwork to understand animal populations and what information should be collected to help rescue these animals. Every day, campers will rescue a different animal, make measurements, take weight, and estimate population sizes using field techniques. It's a real child-led adventure without leaving Cincinnati!

5th-6th Grade Animal Behavior 101

Studying an animal's behavior in the wild or in a zoo can help us get to know them better as individuals AND give scientists valuable insight into the nature and habits of their species. This knowledge can lead to improvements in their care and conservation. During this week-long camp, we'll utilize Zoo hikes and special animal visits to focus on learning the basics of animal observation and investigate the questions that come up.

7th-8th Grade Zoo Careers

Running a zoo involves a lot more than meets the eye. Join us for a week of exploring the many jobs involved in taking care of the Zoo's animals and creating a great experience for Zoo visitors. You'll get a chance to get down, dirty, and creative with hands-on activities, animal encounters, and Behind-The-Scenes tours. We'll also round out the experience with some guest speakers who will give you a better understanding of the variety of zoo careers that we have here at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

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 2–6; June 9–13; June 16–20; June 23–27

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

Campers will embrace their wild side as they spend a week outside exploring fields, forests, and wetlands at the 700-acre Bowyer property! Participants will learn to protect wild spaces through activities such as bird watching, creeking, animal tracking, and so much more. Our camp will encourage your child to build confidence and skill as a naturalist in our native ecosystem. 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. Campers will spend all their time outside and immersed in nature. Please dress accordingly and plan to get dirty or wet!



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 Fur, Feathers, & Scales

Are all animals covered in skin like ours? No way! Animals have different coverings that help them slither, hide, hover, and so much more! Campers will fly, flutter, slither, and scurry through the week as they experience up-close animal encounters, Zoo hikes, songs, games, and crafts!

DATES: June 2–6 June 30–July 4 July 28–Aug 1
 June 16–20 July 14–18 Aug 11–15

Shake, Rattle, & Roll

Animals move their bodies in lots of different ways—just like your child! Some animals (and children) might hop, run, crawl, swim, climb, and more. Each day, we'll explore animal locomotion with hikes in the Zoo, crafts, games, and close encounters with some live animal "movers." No matter how they move, your little one will enjoy this action-filled summer Zoo adventure.

DATES: May 26–30 June 23–27 July 21–25
 June 9–13 July 7–11 Aug 4–8





Toddlers

Oh Baby!

Some animal babies look just like their mommies and daddies, but others look completely different! Join us for a 4-week adventure where we will match up mom and baby, using our voices and bodies to act like animals in the classroom and around the Zoo. Grownups will learn with us, as we watch animals in action, and learn about baby animals with our friends.

DATES:

Tuesdays: April 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

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

Fridays: April 11, 18, 25 & May 2 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

Saturdays: April 12, 19, 26 & May 3 | 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: Plan for one adult to stay with your child during these classes. Toddler series is for children 18–36 months old.*

PRICING:

\$90 Members | \$105 Non-members

Pre-K

Born Wild!

What is it like to be an animal baby? Some need more tender love and care than others, but they all need food, water, and protection to survive! Join us as we learn about the most precious time of an animal's life, where a baby will learn the most essential lessons of survival! We will meet some beautiful babies face-to-face out in the Zoo and in the classroom.

DATES:

Tuesdays: April 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

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

Fridays: April 11, 18, 25 & May 2 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

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

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

**Note: Plan for one adult to stay with your child during these classes.*

PRICING:

\$90 Members | \$105 Non-members



photo by Kathy Newton



photo by Teagan Dumont

Kindergarten

Ready, Set, Play!

What is your favorite game to play on the playground? Have you ever played hide-and-seek or hopscotch? You may be surprised to discover that some animals are born knowing what to do while others play games in order to learn important lessons for survival! During this four-week series, we'll take a closer look at the role of play in how baby animals learn the skills they need to survive as adults.

DATES:

Tuesdays: April 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

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

Saturdays: April 12, 19, 26 & May 3 | 10:00–11:30 a.m.

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

**Note: Children attend this series independently.*

PRICING:

\$95 Members | \$110 Non-members

1st and 2nd Grade

Are You My Mother?

How are the lives of baby reptiles, mammals, birds, and insects different? When you're an animal baby, everything from what you eat to where you live all depends on who raises you! This spring is a great time to check out the diversity of the Zoo's growing family. Join us as we meet animal friends, hike around the zoo, and play games to see who raises our favorite animal babies.

DATES:

Tuesdays: April 8, 15, 22 & 29 | **NEW times** 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

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

Saturdays: April 12, 19, 26 & May 3 | **NEW times** 1:30–3:30 p.m.

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

PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members



photo by Kathy Newton



photo by Kathy Newton

3rd and 4th Grade

My Wild Family Tree

What do tigers and ocelots have in common? How about painted dogs and wolves? Their wild family trees of course! With hikes, games, and classroom animal visitors, this four-week series will help us explore the parenting and family lifestyles of these wild animals and see if they have more in common than shared ancestry.

DATES:

Tuesdays: April 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

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

Saturdays: April 12, 19, 26 & May 3 | 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

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

PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members

5th and 6th Grade

Raising Wild Ones

From carrying their offspring to pushing them from the nest (sometimes literally!), animals employ MANY different parenting styles. During this four-week series, participants will go on Zoo hikes, meet animals in the classroom, and engage in other fun activities that will help them explore the way that wild animal babies are raised and compare them to their own families.

DATES:

Tuesdays: April 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

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

Saturdays: April 12, 19, 26 & May 3 | 1:30–3:30 p.m.

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

PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members



photo by Kathy Newton

7th and 8th Grade

Growing Up Wild

Imagine going from newborn to adult in a year, a few months, or less than a month! Imagine being independent from birth or staying a baby until conditions are right to become an adult! Imagine having 200 brothers and sisters! In this four-week series, we will learn all about the crazy variety that can be found among baby animals and why growing up in the animal kingdom is a wild and wonderful thing!

DATES:

Tuesdays: April 8, 15, 22 & 29 | 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

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

Saturdays: April 12, 19, 26 & May 3 | 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

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

PRICING:

\$100 Members | \$115 Non-members

Garden Programs

Sustainable Urban Landscapes Symposium

DATE: March 13, 2025

TIME: 8:50 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

PRICING: \$129

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Sustainable Urban Landscapes Symposium is a full day of talks on anything having to do with urban landscapes and gardens. This long-standing and very highly rated symposium features the very best horticultural and sustainability experts who will give informational and inspirational talks on how our landscapes can create vibrant ecosystems and comfortable, safe, and friendly places to live and work that raise our well-being.



Day Programs

Hurray for Mom

DATE: May 10, 2025

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.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 an opossum, come learn about our Zoo moms as we prepare to celebrate all mother figures on tomorrow's holiday just for them.

Note: All attendees 3 years and above must register. At least one adult must register per group. Children under 3 years are free. Price is per person.



Evening Programs

Zoo Night Hike: Zoo Families

DATES: March 22, April 19, & May 10, 2025

TIME: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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

Join us on select nights this spring to explore the various 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 families we have at the Zoo.

Note: All attendees 3 years and above must register. At least one adult must register per group. Children under 3 years are free. Price is per person.



Overnight Adventures®

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!

DATES: Pick your date Wednesday–Saturday, January through November (Twiga Tented Safari April through October only).

TIME: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m. the next morning

PRICING: \$55–\$65 per person depending on the program, Twiga Tented Safari is sold as one tent of 10 people for \$900.

WHO: Perfect for any group. Schools, clubs, scouts, 4-H, birthday parties, family celebrations, sororities/fraternities, work outings and more! Anyone can spend the night at the Zoo over the age of 5!

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 as we explore how animals find their food, escape predators, find a mate, and overall SURVIVE in all their unique habitats. Throughout the night we'll explore a few places in the Zoo, participate in fun, educational activities, get a behind-the-scenes sneak peek, and meet some of our animal ambassadors up-close and personal! Then, after the fun, curl up in our private education 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

Only available April–October. 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 at 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 shared safari tents on cozy cots and waking up to breakfast overlooking Giraffe Ridge.



Overnight Safari

Sleepover with the Manatees

DATES: March 8, April 12, & May 24, 2025

TIME: 7:00 p.m.–9:00 a.m. the next morning

PRICING: \$65 per person

WHO: Individuals, families, and small groups. Anyone can book this program, and people will be joined into larger groups for the experience.

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 habitats, centering around the lives of our resident manatees who are a part of a rehabilitation program. Throughout the night we'll explore a few places in the Zoo, participate in fun, educational activities, get a behind-the-scenes sneak peek, including our amazing science and research center CREW, and meet some of our animal ambassadors up-close and personal! When the night ends, you'll doze off at our Manatee Springs building in the big open-spaced area.

Note: Please note that the 2025 location for Overnight Safaris is Manatee Springs! This is a beautiful open-spaced room that will be shared with other families/groups. All attendees must be 5 years and above and registered. At least one adult must register per group.



Barrows Lecture Series

Barrows Conservation Lecture Series

DATES:

March 12—Fanny Minesi

March 19—Moreangels Mbizah

April 2—Luis Paulo Ferraz

April 30—Rick McIntyre

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PRICING:

Single Lecture: \$16 Members | \$18 Non-members | \$8 Virtual

Lecture Series: \$60 Members | \$68 Non-members | \$28 Virtual

Since 1993, the Barrows Conservation Lecture Series has brought a slate of esteemed naturalists and scientists to Cincinnati to address wildlife issues and global conservation efforts. For over 25 years, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has presented its Wildlife Conservation Award to one of its Barrows Conservation Lecture Series speakers.



Spring Public Events

Tunes & Blooms

DATES: *Thursdays in April*

TIME: 6:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

PRICING: FREE after 5:00 p.m. Parking is \$10.

WHO: Everyone!

See a collection of Cincinnati's finest and most respected music veterans playing together in the Zoo's beautiful gardens, for FREE! Why tip-toe through the tulips when you can rock the garden? On Thursdays during Tunes & Blooms, admission is free after 5pm. Parking is \$10. Music starts at 6pm.

Guests can explore wildlife habitats until dusk, such as Africa, Giraffe Ridge, Cat Canyon, Wolf Woods, and Roo Valley. Discover indoor habitats until 8pm, including the Reptile House, Night Hunters, World of the Insect, and Manatee Springs.

Our goal is for all Tunes & Blooms concerts to be Zero Waste events. Please help us achieve this goal by not bringing any single-use plastic items to the Zoo. Thank you!



Summer Public Events

Zoo La La

DATE: *June 20, 2025*

TIME: 7:30 p.m.–11:00 p.m.

PRICING: Visit the website to purchase your tickets!

WHO: Adults 21+

Have a wild night at the Zoo while supporting the education programs that you love! The Zoo's wildest party for a purpose, Zoo La La, supports the work of your Zoo's Education Department! This includes wonderful programs like Zoo Troop, Zoo Field Trips, and Zoo Camps! Zoo La La also helps provide funding to enable all kids, no matter their financial situation, to be able to enjoy these programs through the Living Classroom Education Access Fund.

This is your chance to feel like a kid again and enjoy an adult's night out at the Zoo! Set throughout the Zoo, your adventure will include:

- Food sampling from local restaurants and a variety of signature cocktails and libations
- Up-close animal encounters
- Live entertainment
- Carousel and Safari Train rides
- Games
- And so much more!



