

A zookeeper with blue hair and a black cap is holding a large snake, showing it to a group of children. The children are wearing green shirts and caps. The background is filled with lush green foliage.

ZOO

Education Programs

Summer 2025



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

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

I Spy...

Our world is full of places to discover and explore and our toddlers are doing just that! Join us for a four-week series as we explore our world by getting out into the Zoo and looking up, down, and all around! You and your child will explore the outdoors, meeting animals who live in the water, underground, in the soil, and way up into the sky. Each week we'll discover these animals through live encounters, Zoo hikes, and dramatic and exploratory play, in our own Education back yard.

DATES:

Saturdays: June 7, 14, 21 & 28 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

Let's Grow Together

Just like us, the plants are soaking up this summer sun! Join us as we work our way from root to stem to petal; learning about the different parts of plants and what they need to grow! Each week we will learn more about plants and the animals who interact with them through live animal encounters, Zoo hikes, hands-on activities, songs.

DATES:

Saturdays: July 12, 19, 26 & Aug. 2 | 9:30–10:15 a.m. or 11:00–11:45 a.m.

**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

Art of Nature

It's time to use our own creativity to explore the great outdoors! Come outside with us to create our own art projects and discover the fascinating art palette nature has to offer! Each week of our series we will meet animals face-to-face inside and around the Zoo, as we get hands-on with nature in our own backyard.

DATES:

Saturdays: June 7, 14, 21 & 28 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Reading and Romping

Can you hoot for mom like the Owl Babies? Are you as colorful as The Mixed-Up Chameleon? Can you move your body like an animal From Head to Toe? Through animal encounters, hands-on activities, and exploring the Zoo, your Zoo Trooper will begin to understand how the animals in these books are connected to the animals in the world around us!

DATES:

Saturdays: July 12, 19, 26 & Aug. 2 | 10:00–11:00 a.m.

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

PRICING:

\$90 Members | \$105 Non-members

Day Programs

Hurray for Dad

DATE: June 14, 2025

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

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

We're so glad to have animal dads! Fathers in the animal world might fill the role of protector, nurturer, teacher, food-provider, playmate, and so much more. Join us as we celebrate the father figures in your life by seeing special animal encounters, playing games together, and taking a hike around the zoo as we learn what wild dads are all about!

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

History and Hijinks

DATES: June 10 & 17, July 8 & 22, August 5 & 19, 2025

TIME: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

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

How well do YOU know your Cincinnati Zoo? The honor of "second oldest Zoo in the nation" comes with a lot of history and some epic tales! Step back in time with former Zookeeper and bird trainer, Gary Denzler, as he leads you on a fun and factual story-based historical tour of the Cincinnati Zoo. Gary's 50 years of experience is perfect for sharing tales of the people and animals that have made this Zoo what it is today.

Note: This program is geared towards participants 16 years and older. Price is per person.



Evening Programs

Zoo Night Hike: Hot Weathered Wildlife

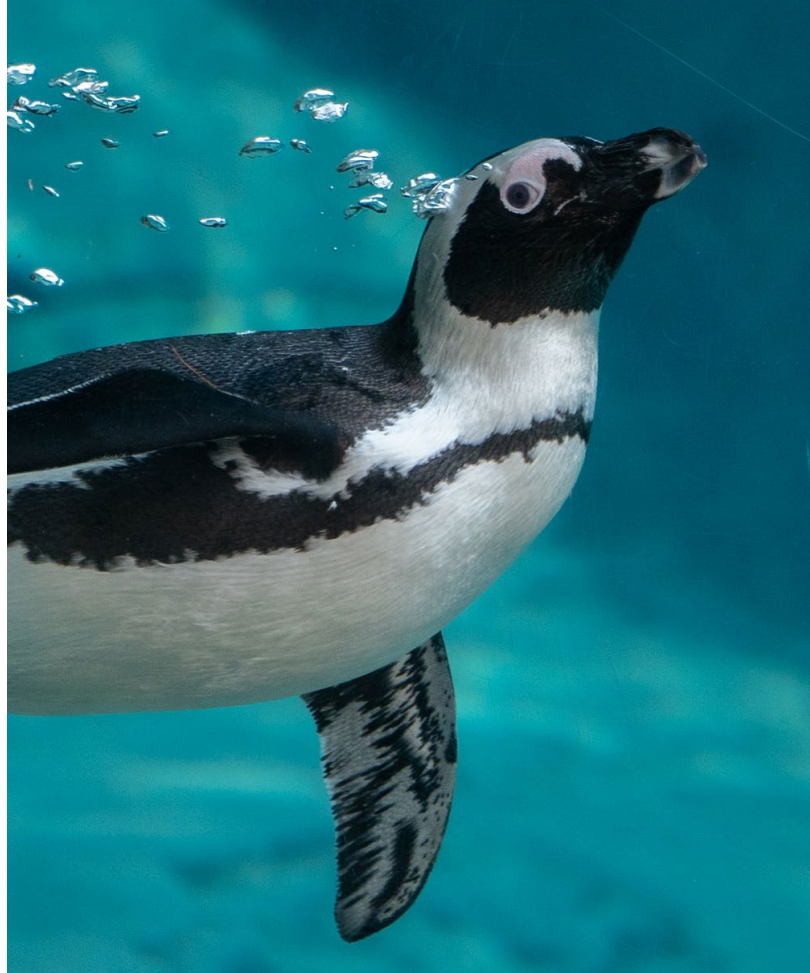
DATES: June 14, July 12, August 1 & 30, 2025

TIME: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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

All animals (including humans) have different strategies for staying cool in the summertime. Pigs wallow, goats get rid of heat through their ears and horns, snakes and lizards seek the shade and African penguins swim to keep cool! There are many ways to beat the heat in the summer! Join us as we learn about which animals enjoy the heat, and how they find ways to cool down. During this Zoo Night Hike, we will hike to see our warm-weather-loving Zoo animals and meet some of our hottest animal ambassadors up-close and personal!

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.



Professional Development

Advanced Inquiry Program Master's Degree

Ignite Ecological & Social Change While Earning Your Master's Degree

The Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) is an online master's degree from Miami University that combines web-based coursework from Miami with unique experiences at the Zoo. This one-of-a-kind graduate program is created for working professionals with a range of backgrounds and careers that have a heart for the natural world, inquiry-driven education, and community-led conservation. Connected to a broad network of "kindred spirits" across the country, students develop their collaborative inquiry skills while fostering positive social and ecological change with local communities.

Applications for the next cohort of AIP at Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden will open in **September 2025**—check out our webpage to apply!

Not too sure about a full master's program yet? Need college credit for professional development? Try a standalone graduate course with us instead! For more information and to let us know you're interested, go to cincinnatizoo.org/AIP.



Overnight Safari

Sleep with the Manatees

DATES: June 21, July 26 & August 30, 2025

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

PRICING: \$70 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. Price is per person.



Zoo After Dark

Adult 21+ Overnight

DATES: May 31, June 28, July 19, August 9 & September 6, 2025

TIME: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 a.m. the next morning

PRICING: \$190 Members | \$200 Non-members

A truly one-of-a-kind experience, these overnights make a great date night, friend group outing, or (adult) family adventure! An interactive social hour will start the night with two drink tickets, light bites, strange zoo games, and a visit from a unique animal. Then, we will break out into small tour groups led by Zoo Educators to traverse through Africa. On our Zoo safari, we will go behind-the-scenes of Hippo Cove and uncover the secrets of our world-famous bloat. We'll finish up our night at our Twiga Tents, gathered around 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. And it doesn't end there! One last special animal guest will join us in the morning to say goodbye.

Note: All attendees must be 21 and above to register. 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: \$60–\$70 per person depending on the program, Twiga Tented Safari is sold as one tent of 10 people for \$1,000.

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!

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.

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.

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.



