

SUMMER CAMP 2025

Animal Behavior 101



Dear Parents & Guardians,

Thank you for enrolling your child in the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Summer Camp. We are so excited that your child can join us! For this **5th & 6th Grade Summer Camp**, we will focus on the principles of studying animal behavior and using scientific inquiry to observe and predict animal behavior here at the Zoo! Through interactive learning games and activities, animal encounters, and treks to various zoo habitats, we will learn all about the tools scientists use to study animal behavior and campers will use these tools to create their own inquiry-based studies.

Below, you will find more information on daily camp themes and activities. Feel free to use these to facilitate discussions with your child after each day of camp. Should you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, all camp staff will be happy to assist you. Thank you for your continued support of your Cincinnati Zoo!

Day One: Inquiry

Today, we will learn about the importance of Inquiry and the QUEST model.

Possible Animal Friends:

- Three-banded armadillo and Kenyan Sand Boa

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- Wolf Woods and Giraffe Ridge

Conversation Starters:

- What was your favorite animal that you got to meet today? Why?
- What is scientific Inquiry?
- What does the QUEST model stand for, and how will you be using it?





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Day Two: Observation

Today, we will learn about Observation and the difference between Innate and Learned Behaviors.

Possible Animal Friends:

- Brazilian Rainbow Boa and Tawny Frogmouth

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- Gorilla World and Reptile House

Conversation Starters:

- What animals did you observe today at Camp?
- Did you use any tools to observe animals today?
- What is a learned animal behavior?



Day Three: Human and Animal Behavior

Today, campers will learn about methods of animal training, like operant conditioning, and that human behavior can be studied in the same way as non-human animal behavior.

Possible Animal Friends:

- Madagascar Lesser Tenrec

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- Night Hunters and Cat Canyon

Conversation Starters:

- What animals did you observe today, what did they do?
- What common method do most animal trainers use?
- What is an Ethogram?

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Day Four: Elephant and Primate Behavior

Today, we will focus on Elephant and Primate Behavior, their instincts, and the social dynamics of animal groups.

Possible Animal Friends:

- Pancake Tortoise and Corn Snake

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- Elephant Trek and Jungle Trails

Conversation Starters:

- What was your favorite animal that you got to meet today? Why?
- What did you learn about Elephant Behavior?
- Is animal behavior different within groups of social animals?

Day Five: Studies and Presentations

Today, we will review the week's content, and each camper will present their own inquiry-based study.

Possible Animal Friends:

- Bearded Dragon and Red-Footed Tortoise

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- Roo Valley and World of the Insect

Conversation Starters:

- What was your favorite animal to observe this week?
- What was the focus of your inquiry-based study?
- Which animal would you enjoy observing again?
- What was your favorite part of camp this week?



Gadgets for Gorillas is our summer camp conservation challenge! We are collecting e-waste to recycle, helping to protect gorilla habitat in the Congo. The bin will be located in our lobby. [Click here for more details.](#)

