

SUMMER CAMP 2026

Working with Wildlife



Dear Parents & Guardians,

Thank you for enrolling in the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Summer Camp. We are so excited your child can join us! For this 7th and 8th grade Summer Camp, we will be exploring many exciting wildlife-focused career paths! Through interactive learning games and activities, animal encounters, and treks to various zoo habitats we will learn all about the different ways campers can work with wildlife.

Below, you will find more information on daily camp themes and activities. Feel free to use these to facilitate discussion 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: Keepers and Trainers

Today we will be learning all about keepers and trainers and get to see firsthand what they do!

Possible Animal Friends:

- Special animal brought by the Animal Ambassador Keepers, Chicken

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- AM: Wolf Woods, Children's Zoo/AAC, Roo Valley
- PM: Behind the scenes tour* at either Cat Ambassador Program, Night Hunters, Reptile House, or CREW

Conversation Starters:

- Where did you go for your behind the scenes tour? What did you learn there?
- Did you learn anything about animal keeping jobs that you didn't know before?

*masks are required at certain behind the scenes location to ensure the safety and health of our animals





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Day Two: Tools of the Trade

Let's take a closer look at the tools used by people who work with wildlife!

Important:

- Please make sure your camper is wearing close-toed shoes on this day!

Possible Animal Friends:

- Barn Owl, 3-banded Armadillo

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- AM: Habitat ambassador station, Dragons!, Jungle Trails
- PM: Gorilla World or Wings of the World

Conversation Starters:

- What are some of the tools used by people who work with wildlife?
- What is an ethogram? What were you trying to find out with the ethogram?



Day Three: Education and Outreach

Today we will learn about the importance of conservation education and outreach!

Important:

- Please make sure your camper is wearing close-toed shoes on this day!

Possible Animal Friends:

- Black Rat Snake, Madagascar Hissing Cockroach

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- AM: Habitat ambassador station, Manatee Springs, Africa, Reptile House
- PM: Campers choice hike and Wings of Wonder bird encounter!

Conversation Starters:

- What can you teach me about the animals you saw in the classroom?

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Day Four: Forensic Zoology

We will learn about how Forensic Zoology is a useful tool to catch poachers, track diseases, and analyze predator/prey relationships in the wild.

Possible Animal Friends:

- Campers will be learning how to handle either Eastern box turtles, African pancake tortoises, or a red-footed tortoise!

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- AM: Elephant Trek, Barnyard Bonanza
- PM: Night Hunters, Cat Canyon, Martha Pigeon Memorial

Conversation Starters:

- What was the procedure for learning to handle the animals?

Day Five: Choosing Your Path

We will explore the different ways to get started in a wildlife-focused career!

Possible Animal Friends:

- Blue-tongued skink, Angolan python
- Campers will be handling and teaching the public about either Eastern box turtles, African pancake tortoises, or a red-footed tortoise!

Possible Zoo Hike Locations:

- AM: Train, Carousel, Giraffe feeding
- PM: Bald Eagle, Red Panda, Galapagos Tortoise encounter

Conversation Starters:

- Would like to work in a career with wildlife? If so, what career and why? If not, how can you be kind to wildlife in other careers?



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 a video with more details.

