



Animal Park Summer Camp COVID-19 FAQs

We can't wait to dive into this summer with the curious minds of our campers! Nothing makes us happier than getting to educate our visitors about the amazing creatures we provide homes for at the Animal Park at the Conservators Center.

Due to COVID-19 virus, the Animal Park's staff would like to take this time to update campers and families on the precautions we are taking to ensure a healthy, and fun, summer for all. We ask that all of our students, parents, and volunteers work with us at this time to ensure the safety of one another. Thank you all so much for your patience and flexibility during these complex, and uncertain, times.

How will the Animal Park Staff manage group sizes to maintain social distancing?

Following Governor Cooper's executive orders to start opening the state, we have also begun to reopen to guests. Currently, we are taking small tours on the weekends and are requiring masks within the Animal Park's gates. We want to make sure everyone, including our animals, is safe.

For summer camps specifically, we are limiting our camp size to seven students per camp session. This way between students, staff, and volunteers each student will only be

around nine other individuals. This directly follows recommendations given by the CDC to limit social circles (outside of the home) to ten people or below.

How will social distancing be addressed in the classroom?

Our education room is one of the largest on the property, and it can comfortably house at least 7 students seated six feet apart. Luckily, the majority of our activities, educational lessons, and animal tours will occur outside. Your campers will be spending more than 50% of their on-site experience in the open air. During lessons that involve campers sitting, there will be markers placed on the floor so students can find a comfortable seat at a safe distance from their peers. Outdoor games and activities have also been altered to enforce social distancing and avoid physical touch.

Will face coverings be allowed at camp?

Inside of the park, where the animal habitats are found, all students, volunteers, and staffers will be required to wear face coverings. Back at the education center, the staffers will be wearing face coverings as well. We fully support students wearing face coverings during their time with us at the education center, but we understand that this can be frustrating and uncomfortable for some younger campers. Face coverings will be encouraged most when we are inside the education center since it is not located in the open air.

How are staff being screened for the virus? What if a camper develops symptoms or gets sick at camp?

Keeping our staff and campers healthy and safe is our number one priority. Staffers are required to self evaluate, based on the symptom list, before arriving on site. Once on-site if there are any concerns from the employee or other staffers, we have a forehead

thermometer available. If a staffer develops a temperature while at work they will leave the site and their close colleagues will be closely monitored.

For campers, we are requiring that they complete a brief health questionnaire upon arrival at the park. This questionnaire will be conducted by a counselor as students are being dropped off by their parents. If staffers have any concerns about their students we have the thermometer available for them as well. We ask that if the student becomes sick at home, or anyone else in the family is exhibiting symptoms, that they stay home.

If your child starts to feel sick at camp, we will contact you immediately to pick them up. We take any symptoms of illness very seriously and do not want to put any children or staff members at risk.

How will refunds work?

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, we are trying to be as lenient and flexible with our cancellation policy as possible. Since our summer camps are already being capped at small numbers, we hope that those signing up can give us a one-week prior notice for cancellations. We understand that sometimes issues can arrive suddenly; there will be a ten dollar cancellation fee for cancellations five days before the start date or earlier. Any cancellations within four days of the start date will require a processing fee of twenty dollars.

How will camp cleanliness be maintained?

Year-round, regardless of COVID-19, The Animal Park considers cleanliness and sanitation to be a top priority. Whether it is a space home to animals or a room for our people, they are all maintained/cleaned several times a day.

Taking COVID-19 into consideration, we will be cleaning the education center before campers arrive, after snack time, and after lunch. The education center will also be completely wiped down, including floors and chairs, each time campers leave the building. This way it will be nice and clean for when they return! Campers and staff will also be given hand sanitizer each time they enter the center. Everyone will be required to wash hands fully upon arrival, before snack and lunch, before and after going into the animal park habitat area, and before they leave to go home.

Will there be any changes to animal encounters at the Animal Park?

The animals at the Animal Park will continue to be at least a six-foot distance from all visitors, in their habitats, as usual. However, our cats can be affected by COVID-19; this is why it is important to wear face coverings on the tour path inside of the Animal Park.

Am I able to switch my camp week to later in the summer?

As long as there are available slots for future camps you can switch to a later date by emailing us at fieldtrips@animalparknc.org.