



## Camp Joey Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the times, dates and prices?

Please go back to the Camp KangaZoo page and click on one of the links at the top of the page. There are links for Camp Joey (age 4- entering Kg,) Camp KangaZoo (entering 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grades) and Teen Camp (entering 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grades.)

### How do I register?

When you return to the Camp page, follow the link on the right sidebar for complete registration information. Mail-in registration and online registration is available.

### Will my child be with children his/her own age?

Probably. All of the campers that are registered for a session of Camp Joey are organized into a list based on their birth date. If you have requested a buddy for your camper, we make sure that the buddies are together (they are listed by the younger buddies birth date.) Then, we divide the list into two equal groups. So the youngest 9 campers will be together and the oldest 9 campers will be together. For most Camp Joey activities, both groups will be together, for a few activities the groups will be separated. Both groups will participate in the same activities, but possibly at different times. For more information about requesting a buddy, see questions relating to the buddy system below.

### What do the campers do?

Camp Joey's theme is Animals in our World. Daily themes are Animals in our Homes, Animals in our Backyard, Animals at the Zoo and Animals in the Wild. Each day, campers will participate in active outdoor games, indoor crafts and activity centers, tours of the Zoo, visits to Zoo attractions, music, and will have the opportunity to see and gently touch live animals.

### Where is Camp Joey located at the Zoo?

Indoor activities for Camp Joey will occur at classrooms in the lower level of the Primate House. Outdoor activities take place primarily in the yard and tents between the Primate House and the Herpetarium, and at the new green space in the Chain of Lakes. We also spend time at many animal exhibits, both indoors and out.

### Can I visit my child while he/she is at Camp?

Not really. However, on the first day of your child's session, you may walk with your child up to the Camp area to meet the staff and see the facilities. We ask that you

only stay for a few minutes and then leave. On subsequent days, please drop off your child with the Camp Joey staff at the South Gate on Wells Drive.

#### Can my child attend Camp with a friend?

Yes. The buddy system can only be used for mail in registration, not for on-line registration. If you include the registration form for your child and his/her buddy in the same envelope, they will both be registered for the same **session and week** of Camp. Friends that are no more than one year apart in age may request to be placed in the same **camper group**. To do this, write your child's friends name on the appropriate line at the bottom of your child's Camp Health/Information form. Please also have your child's friend write your child's name on his/her form. See the Registration Information for full instructions on registering for Camp with a buddy. Please keep in mind that buddies are placed into a group based on the younger buddy's birth date.

#### Can my child request more than one buddy?

**Please** do not request more than one buddy. Circles of several buddies in a group can make the other campers in the group feel left out.

Please do not try to take advantage of the buddy system by creating buddy chains (A with B, B with C, C with D, D with A, etc.) If your child will not attend Camp unless he/she is with three or four friends, perhaps he/she is not ready to attend Camp. Remember that summer camps are an opportunity for your child to grow mentally, emotionally and socially by participating in activities and meeting new friends!

#### Who are the Camp Staff?

Each Camp Joey session has a staff which includes 4 Seasonal Instructors (counselors), 1 Assistant Seasonal Instructor, and 2 or 3 teen volunteers. The Seasonal Instructors are primarily teachers and college students with preschool or early childhood education experience. The Assistants are high school or college students, and the volunteers are high school students.

#### What is the counselor to camper ratio?

Camp Joey maintains a minimum 4:9 (1:2.25) counselor to camper ratio.

#### How can I be sure my child will be safe?

Your child's safety is our top priority and we have many procedures in place to assure the safety of your child. All of the Seasonal Instructors are trained in First Aid and CPR. We use the "rule of three" at Camp which ensures that an instructor is never alone with a camper. Instructors always work in pairs, and have assistants and volunteers with them, so there are plenty of eyes to watch your child and for staff to watch each other. Instructors carry two way radios, so if a child should become lost, we can immediately mobilize Zoo Security and others to help locate the child.

Our pick-up procedures are designed so that the parent can designate who will pick up their child. If the procedures are not followed, or we have any doubt whatsoever, we will not release the child without contacting a parent or an emergency contact person by phone. Camp staff and volunteers also undergo a background check.

It is important for parents to help us by dressing your child in their Camp t-shirt everyday. It is also important that parents notify us of any allergies, special needs, behaviors to look for, etc. Please indicate these on the Health/Information form. If your child's condition changes, or if your contact information changes, please notify us before your child's Camp session.

#### What if my child has allergies?

Make sure to list your child's allergies, or other information about your camper, on the Camp Health/Information form. If your child requires medication, you can send the medicine with your child. The Camp staff can not administer medication, but we can remind your child to take medicine. If your child has a severe allergy or carries an epi-pen, please contact the Camp director in advance to discuss. If your child has food allergies or other dietary restrictions, you are welcome to send a snack with your child each day. Feel free to call the Camp director to discuss what snacks will be served at Camp.

#### Is Camp accessible to children who use wheelchairs?

Camp Joey normally occurs in the Primate House basement, which is not an accessible area, however the Camp program can be modified and other spaces utilized so that it is fully accessible. If your child uses a wheelchair, or needs assistance eating, walking or using the bathroom, please assist us by sending an aide to Camp with your child. Parents may want to contact the Recreation Council of Greater St. Louis and inquire about the program support voucher to help offset the costs of a personal attendant for children with greater needs.

#### Is Camp appropriate for children with other special needs?

Camp Joey maintains a minimum 4:9 counselor to camper ratio. If your child requires more attention than this or needs one-on-one assistance, please assist us by sending an aide to Camp with your child. Camp is an exciting environment. Children with sensitivities to loud noises, or that are very easily distracted, may be overwhelmed by Camp's energy and action. Please contact the Camp director to discuss your child's needs before your camp session begins, so that the best Camp experience can be provided.

#### Can I attend Camp with my child?

As a general rule, this is not allowed. However, if your child has special needs or requires one-on-one attention, you may come as your child's aide. Please contact the Camp director to discuss arrangements at least one week before your child's camp session begins. It could be confusing to young children if they see other children attending with a parent, when their parent was not allowed. A better choice would be to send an aide that is not a parent.