



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 1st – 6th grades) and Teen Camp (entering 7th – 9th grades.)

How do I register?

Please go back to the Camp KangaZoo page and read the registration information in the sidebar on the right side of the page. Follow the links to the registration forms, print them, fill them out, and mail them in.

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 many Camp Joey activities, both groups will be together, for other 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 (train, Children's Zoo, etc.) 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 and in The Living World. 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.

Where do I bring my child?

On Mondays, you will park in the South Parking lot and walk your child across the street to the South Entrance Plaza. There will be many children and parents and camp staff in this area checking in for different Camp programs. You should look for the sign that says Camp Joey Check- In. One of the Camp Joey staff will meet you here, greet you, and check you in on the attendance roster. You will then be directed to the t-shirt area where you will receive your child's Camp t-shirt. You can either help your child change into their Camp shirt right there, or you can take your child to the restroom inside the Zoo. When your child is changed and ready to go, they should come back to the check in sign. You can leave your child with us at this time. When a group of several children are ready to go, one of the Camp Joey staff will escort the children to

the Camp area in the lower level of the Primate House. If you would like to, on Monday only, you can walk with the group to the Camp area to meet the rest of the staff and see the area. We ask that you please only stay for a few minutes and then leave.

On subsequent days, please just pull up to the South Gate area on Wells drive and stay in your car. Camp staff will be there to open your car door and help your child out. Then we'll walk the children up to the Camp area for another great day of Camp!

You will receive additional information about Camp drop-off, pick-up and more in the Parent's Packet mailed out with your registration confirmation.

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. See previous question.

Can my child attend Camp with a friend?

Yes. 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), 2 Assistant Seasonal Instructors, 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. The entire Camp staff stays for the overnight, and the Zoo has overnight security personnel to keep your child(ren) safe. Camp staff and volunteers also undergo a background check.

It is important for parents to help us by notifying 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.

We do offer many other programs for young children that parents and children attend together. Go back to the Programs for Young Children or Programs for Families section of the website for more information.

Can I sign up my child for Camp if he/she can not attend for all four days?

Yes. However you still have to pay for the whole week.

Can I sign up my child for both the morning and the afternoon session?

No. Children are only allowed to attend one session. This is because the exact same program is repeated in the morning and afternoon. If you are looking for additional programs for your children, we have many other programs for young children that parents and children attend together.