

# Camps and Starlight Sleepovers

Camps are four days long and start on Mondays, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All camps include a Starlight Safari sleepover on Fridays. The sleepover part of the camps takes place overnight on Friday (the 5th day) at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 8 a.m. on Saturday (the 6th day). Breakfast and lunch are provided daily, courtesy of BISD and the Texas Department of Agriculture's Summer Nutrition Program. Students have to be at least age 7 to participate in the Starlight Safari Sleepover. Family members are encouraged to register for the sleepover along with their student.

**Cost for each Week Camp includes the cost for the Starlight Sleepover**  
**\$175** **\$200**  
 members non-members

## 1st and 2nd Grades

<p><b>Creature Feature Camp:</b> This is your opportunity to learn everything you ever wanted to know about tails, feet, arms and body coverings! See animals up close and meet some of the staff who care for them. Bring walking shoes to go on special tours behind the scenes.  <b>Session 601234 :</b> June 1 to June 4 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and June 5 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.  <b>Session 713234:</b> July 13 to July 16 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 17 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Fish Tales Camp:</b> Come explore the underwater world of fish. Learn what fish make our resacas, gulf and river their home. The Starlight Sleepover of the camp will take place at Russell Aquatic Ecology Center. Don't miss a chance to "sleep with the fish."  <b>Session 608234:</b> June 8 to June 11 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and June 12 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.  <b>Session 706234:</b> July 6 to July 9 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. and July 10 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Zoo Safari Camp:</b> Go on a safari at the zoo. Explore Australia, Africa, Asia, La Huasteca and South America. Get to know what species of animals are found in each region.  <b>Session 629234:</b> June 29 to July 2 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 3 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.  <b>Session 803234:</b> Aug 3 to Aug 6 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Aug 7 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Rainforest Discovery Camp:</b> Learn why rainforests are important, what animals live there and how you can help conserve them. Meet some of the Zoo's animals that come from rainforests. This is a fun way to learn more about some very cool creatures!  <b>Session 622234:</b> June 22 to June 25 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and June 26 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.  <b>Session 727234:</b> July 27 to July 30 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 31 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Animal Homes Camp:</b> Nest, dens, hives, holes, hallows, caves and burrows are types of animal shelters. Some animals even carry their shelter where they go, while others will "borrow" some other animal's shelter. Come learn who are the architects of the various shelters in nature.  <b>Session 615234:</b> June 15 to June 18 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and June 19 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.  <b>Session 720234:</b> July 20 to July 23 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 24 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>

## 3rd, 4th and 5th Grades

<p><b>Junior Zookeeper Camp:</b> Learn all about the most important job at a Zoo... zookeeping. Meet the keeper! You might be asked to help clean out exhibits, feed some animals or do some other exciting part of a zookeeper's job. Get familiar with the tools and techniques of the trade.  <b>Session 601333:</b> June 1 to June 4 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and June 5 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.  <b>Session 803333:</b> Aug 3 to Aug 6 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and August 7 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Aquatic Adventure Camp:</b> Spend some time learning about underwater ecology at the Russell Aquatic Ecology Center. At the end of the camp, "sleep with the fish." The Starlight Sleepover of the camp will take place in the aquatic center.  <b>Session 608333:</b> June 8 to June 11 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and June 12 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.  <b>Session 706333:</b> July 6 to July 9 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 10 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Habitat Sweet Habitat Camp:</b> Every living thing needs a home. A good animal home needs to have at least enough food, water, space and shelter for survival. Some animals need a lot of space, while others hardly any. Come discover what a good habitat is for some of the world's most interesting animals. Explore the Zoo in search of examples of animal habitats.  <b>Session 615333:</b> June 15 to June 18 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and June 19 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Rainforest Adventure Camp:</b> Learn some fascinating differences between rainforests and other types of forests. See some of the animals that come from rainforests around the world.  <b>Session 622333:</b> June 22 to June 25 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and June 26 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>Amphibian Academy Camp:</b> How many amphibians can you name? Learn about amphibians that live near you and rare and exotic ones that live in other parts of the world. Join us and get to see some up close.  <b>Session 629333:</b> June 29 to July 2 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 3 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>All About Birds Camp:</b> Come learn about the Zoo's feathered residents. Learn about the advantages of having feathers. They are not just for flying.  <b>Session 713333:</b> July 13 to July 16 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 17 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>All About Reptiles Camp:</b> Come learn about reptiles and get to meet some up close. Get the chance to meet some of the world's largest reptiles.  <b>Session 720333:</b> July 20 to July 23 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 24 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>
<p><b>All About Mammals Camp:</b> There's about 80 species of mammals at the Zoo. Join the adventure to see the world's tallest, largest and rarest mammals at the Zoo. Come learn about them.  <b>Session 727333:</b> July 27 to July 30 -- 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and July 31 -- 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m.</p>



**Order T-shirts now!**  
 Pay when you register for class.  
 Supply is limited

**Every 4th Class or Camp is free !!**

# SUMMER SAFARI 2026

## Class Schedule

## Zoo Family Starlight Sleepover July 18th

Challenge your senses to observe nocturnal animals! Tour the Zoo at night! It's a sleepover in a nice, air-conditioned building. Enjoy games, a pizza party, an early morning outdoor breakfast and more!



**For adults and children over 7 years of age.**

**Times:** 6:30 p.m. to 8 a.m. the following morning.  
**Cost:** \$35 per person. This includes a pizza dinner party, zoo tour, games, breakfast, drinks & fun night-time activities!!

**What to bring:** Weather-appropriate clothing; sturdy walking shoes, small flashlight, insect repellent, toiletries, sleeping bag or blankets and a pillow.

**Information and Reservations:** Education Department (956) 548-WILD (9453)  
 Zoo Main Office (956) 546-7187 [www.gpz.org](http://www.gpz.org); email: [educ@gpz.org](mailto:educ@gpz.org)

# SUMMER SAFARI

What will your child do this summer? Consider the Summer Safari program at the Zoo! This exciting program includes puppet shows, games, stories, crafts, sing-alongs, and tours. Each child receives a completion certificate and rewards.

Summer Safari classes focus on learning and conservation. We provide breakfast, lunch, and snacks on most days. If your child has special dietary needs, please contact the Education Department.

Children aged 7 and older can join the week-long camps, while those aged 4 and older can sign up for the two-day, 3-hour classes. The Starlight Sleepover is for kids aged 7 and up as well.

Camps run Monday through Thursday, with the Starlight Sleepover on Friday. Parents can join the sleepover and sign up for a discounted price of \$35 each.

Cost for each  
2-Day Class

**\$50 | \$60**

members non-members

Cost for Family Starlight  
Sleepover: **\$35**



JUNE Pre - K and Kinder			
<b>Animal Tails 601111</b> June 1 and 2 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Long ones ... short ones ... they all have a good use. Let's search the Zoo for different animal tails.	<b>Feathered Friends 608111</b> June 8 and 9 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. They are able to take flight, but not all with feathers fly.	<b>Animal Coats 615111</b> June 15 and 16 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn why a hippo has thick skin and why a chinchilla is fluffy.	<b>Rainforest Animals 622111</b> June 22 and 23 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Discover what kind of animals live in each level of the rainforest.
<b>Sharks &amp; Rays 601121</b> June 1 and 2 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They are some of the ocean's most fascinating animals. Join us for a special encounter with these interesting creatures.	<b>If I Ran The Zoo 608121</b> June 8 and 9 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn about what goes on at the Zoo and get to see many interesting animals.	<b>Butterfly Biography 615121</b> June 15 and 16 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. See the life cycle of a butterfly first hand and learn about the purpose of these beautiful insects.	<b>Giant Reptiles 622121</b> June 22 and 23 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come meet giants like the Komodo dragon, the Orinoco crocodile, and the Galapagos tortoise.
<b>Gliders and Jumpers 603111</b> June 3 and 4 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn all about Australia's marsupial gliders and jumpers.	<b>Turtles &amp; Tortoises 610111</b> June 10 and 11 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It's all in the shell. Make your own turtle shell, as you learn all about these creatures.	<b>Classy Critters 617111</b> June 17 and 18 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn about the classes of animals and what makes them distinct from each other.	<b>One or Two Humps 624111</b> June 24 and 25 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The Camel Family has several members... some with no hump and some with one or more.
<b>Deer and Antelope 603121</b> June 3 and 4 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They may be prey for carnivores, but they are not without great survival skills. Come meet the Zoo's hoof stock and see if you can tell if they have horns or antlers.	<b>River Giants 610121</b> June 10 and 11 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Lurking among the plants in the water is a master hunter ready to pounce and devour unsuspecting fish. See it at the Zoo.	<b>Leaping Lemurs 617121</b> June 17 and 18 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Lemurs are good at climbing trees, are loud and live at the Zoo. Come get a closer look.	<b>Snakes and Lizards 624121</b> June 24 and 25 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come learn the difference between snakes and lizards, while getting the chance to meet some up close.

JULY			
<b>Secret World of Ants 629111</b> June 29 and 30 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Not all ants are the same. Learn about ants and their role in the environment.	<b>Animal Babies 706121</b> July 6 and 7 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. What's a baby gorilla called? Learn how Zoo mothers take care of their babies. Meet some of the cutest animals at the Zoo.	<b>Hello Birdie 715111</b> July 15 and 16 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It's the feathers, the eggs and all about birds.	<b>The Fast &amp; Furry 722121</b> July 22 and 23 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. What are the fastest mammals on the planet? Learn how fast they go.
<b>Animal Homes 629121</b> June 29 and 30 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Find out what makes a Home Sweet Home for some animals.	<b>Tiny Monkey 708111</b> July 8 and 9 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet and learn all about the world's smallest primate.	<b>Bears 715121</b> July 15 and 16 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Get familiar with the largest meat-eater on land.	<b>Cavy Central 727111</b> July 27 and 28 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet and learn all about these cute rodents... guinea pigs!
<b>Fish Stories 701111</b> July 1 and 2 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The biggest fish are at the Zoo! What stories will you tell after you meet and learn all about native fish.	<b>Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! 708121</b> July 8 and 9 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Get into the world of insects.	<b>Classy Critters 720111</b> July 20 and 21 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn how to describe animals by their characteristics.	<b>Zoo Chef 727121</b> July 27 and 28 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Zoo dieticians have to prepare meals for lots of animals every day. Come help feed some of the zoo's animals.
<b>Color me Wild 701121</b> July 1 and 2 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn that in the wild, colors have purpose and function and it's about survival.	<b>Creepy Crawlers 713111</b> July 13 and 14 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Can a spider hear or smell? Do all spiders make webs? Joins us to get a closer look.	<b>Animal Tails 720121</b> July 20 and 21 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Long ones...short ones... they all have a good use. Let's search the Zoo for different animal tails.	<b>Happy Hippo 729111</b> July 29 and 30 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn what makes a hippo "happy" at the Zoo. Meet the pygmy hippo family.
<b>Animal Tracks 706111</b> July 6 and 7 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Identify and compare the footprints of exotic animals. Become a footprint detective!	<b>Tortuga Tales 713121</b> July 13 and 14 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There are seven species of sea turtles in the world. Learn about the turtles that visit the Texas coast.	<b>Crocs &amp; Gators 722111</b> July 22 and 23 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Visit the largest reptiles at the Zoo. Learn the real difference between a croc and a gator.	<b>Feet, Teeth, &amp; Tongues 729121</b> July 29 and 30 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn the purpose of a blue tongue, sharp teeth and clawed feet.

## Attention Working Parents!

Play Sessions are available for your child registered for summer classes -- Monday through Thursday, but not on Fridays. Add a little extra time to your child's day for play and exercise. Children can be dropped off as early as 7:45 a.m. Children will get to explore the Zoo, spend creative playtime at the Discovery playground, and enjoy animal-themed games with their Play Instructor. Children will then be escorted to their appropriate classroom to start their class. Each play session is \$5 per child. Space is limited and only preregistered children can be accepted. Minimum age is 4 years. Children must be picked up promptly at 5:15 p.m. to be accepted and participate in additional sessions.

**Morning Play Session 745**  
7:45 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.  
**Mid-day Play Session 1200**  
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
**Afternoon Play Session 415**  
4:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

## JUNE

1st and 2nd Grades			
<b>It's Otterly Amazing 601212</b> June 1 and 2 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Come learn all about these adorable aquatic acrobats.	<b>Nut Crackers 608212</b> June 8 and 9 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Parrots are in the bird group equipped to crack even the toughest nut! See them in action.	<b>Wild &amp; Stinky 615212</b> June 15 and 16 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn why some animals stink and smell them up close.	<b>All About Apes 622212</b> June 22 and 23 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. They are found in small or large troops. Come learn about these fascinating, endangered primates.
<b>Boas &amp; Pythons 601222</b> June 1 and 2 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Some can get as long as a bus. Most of these constrictors are big and expert hunters.	<b>Fabulous Felines 608222</b> June 8 and 9 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There are over 30 species of wild cats, many of which are endangered. Come get familiar with these felines and meet the Zoo's cats.	<b>Monkey Mania 615222</b> June 15 and 16 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. What is the difference between a monkey and an ape? Learn this and other fascinating facts about these primates.	<b>Invisible Animals 622222</b> June 22 and 23 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn how skin color and behavior helps animals camouflage, becoming practically invisible to other animals.
<b>Lemur Landing 603212</b> June 3 and 4 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Several different types of lemurs live at the Zoo. Get a close look and learn all you can about prosimians.	<b>What's on the Menu 610212</b> June 10 and 11 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn what it takes to feed hundreds of animals at the Zoo. Help feed some of the hungry Zoo animals.	<b>Marsupial Mania 617212</b> June 17 and 18 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. These mammals have pouches to carry their babies. Let's explore the Zoo for marsupials.	<b>Toys and Snacks 624212</b> June 24 and 25 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Find out why some animals at the Zoo get toys and snacks. Make your own animal toy, and then help present it to them.
<b>Let's go Fishing 603222</b> June 3 and 4 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The big ones are at the Zoo. Find out what aquatic creatures lurk in our resacas, the river and Gulf of Mexico.	<b>Animal Champs 610222</b> June 10 and 11 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Who runs the fastest... jumps highest... or flies the fastest? Let's learn and compare among wild animals.	<b>Expedition Dinosaurs 617222</b> June 17 and 18 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Are they really extinct? Come explore the Zoo in search of evidence of dinosaurs.	<b>World of Rodents 624222</b> June 24 and 25 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They are found world-wide and come in different sizes. Come learn more about these gnawing critters.

## JULY

1st and 2nd Grades			
<b>Habitats 629212</b> June 29 and 30 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn what makes a suitable habitat	<b>Reptile Rally 706222</b> July 6 and 7 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come learn all you can about reptiles and get close to some of the Zoo's scaly residents.	<b>Animal Talk 715212</b> July 15 and 16 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn how animals of the same species talk to each other.	<b>Flying Mammals 722222</b> July 22 and 23 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Explore the world of bats and get a chance to visit the Zoo's "bat cave."
<b>Night Hunters 629222</b> June 29 and 30 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They are stealthy and expert hunters in the dark of night. What makes nocturnal predators good hunters?	<b>Arachnid Academy 708212</b> July 8 and 9 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. There are more than 30,000 types of spiders. There are some at the Zoo you can see up close. Come meet these 8-legged creatures.	<b>On Your Toes 715222</b> July 15 and 16 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They're always on their toes! Explore the Zoo for some animals with hooves	<b>Wild and Gross Animals 727212</b> July 27 and 28 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn why some animals stink, ooze stuff and do gross things.
<b>Snakes on the Plain 701212</b> July 1 and 2 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Get to know some of our native species of snakes.	<b>Animals of the Rainforest 708222</b> July 8 and 9 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. They literally live in the trees. Come explore life in the trees.	<b>Swamp Creatures 720212</b> July 20 and 21 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Swamps may look uninhabitable, but there is a whole world of fascinating creatures in them ... some can be found at the Zoo.	<b>Great Tortoise Tour 727222</b> July 27 and 28 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. How slow can you go? Get to meet the Zoo's largest shelled reptile ... the Galapagos tortoise.
<b>Predator &amp; Prey 701222</b> July 1 and 2 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Who eats who in the food chain? It is not a game but some win and others become lunch.	<b>Call of the Wild 713212</b> July 13 and 14 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. They howl, they growl, scream and even sing. Learn how animals talk to each other.	<b>Cobra Chronicles 720222</b> July 20 and 21 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This large snake has an appetite for other snakes.	<b>Baby Primates 729212</b> July 29 and 30 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Baby apes and monkeys are cute and need special attention.
<b>Flight or Flee 706212</b> July 6 and 7 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Learn more about predator and prey, and features animals have adapted just for hunting and defense.	<b>Animal Senses 713222</b> July 13 and 14 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Why do animals have such keen senses? Compare your senses to those of wild animals.	<b>Stinkers 722212</b> July 22 and 23 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hop down to Australia and later make your own kangaroo craft.	<b>Animal Munchies 729222</b> July 29 and 30 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. What do animals at the Zoo get to eat? Feed or watch them munch on their favorite foods.

## AUGUST

Pre K and Kinder			
<b>Monkeys &amp; Apes 803111</b> Aug 3 and 4 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. What is the difference between a monkey and an ape? Come to the Zoo and explore their world.	<b>Sharks &amp; Rays 803121</b> Aug 3 and 4 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sharks and rays are some of the ocean's most fascinating animals. Come meet these interesting creatures.	<b>Hide and Seek 805111</b> Aug 5 and 6 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. It's the animal kingdom's game of survival. Learn what some animals do to hide from predators or to conceal when hunting other animals.	<b>Pouch Babies 805121</b> Aug 5 and 6 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Why do some animal mothers carry their baby in a pouch? Come learn about marsupials and get a chance to meet some pouch babies.

## AUGUST

1st and 2nd Grades			
<b>Animal Tree House 803212</b> Aug 3 and 4 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Explore the forest canopy for animals that live in this type of habitat.	<b>Lion's Pride 803222</b> Aug 3 and 4 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Come meet the King of the Jungle as you learn all about lions.	<b>Animal Book of Survival 805212</b> Aug 5 and 6 -- 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Come learn about what it takes to survive in the wild.	<b>Toad-ally Awesome 805222</b> Aug 5 and 6 -- 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Learn all about toads and meet some pretty awesome amphibians at the Zoo.