

Topeka Zoo Camp Behavior Contract

The Topeka Zoo Education Department wants to provide every child with an educational, safe, and memorable experience. We want to ensure that our campers make memories that last a lifetime, and it is our goal that campers have a safe and positive experience here at the Topeka Zoo. We want all our campers and families to understand that the physical and emotional safety of our campers, animals, and staff is of the utmost importance. This policy outlines the Code of Conduct and what behaviors are appropriate and inappropriate during any program taught by education staff and the consequences that will result if said behavior is not corrected.

Please review the following information with your child:

CODE OF CONDUCT:

- **Respect**-be respectful to yourself, your camp counselors, your peers, the facility, animals, other Topeka Zoo staff, and guests. Always listen to your counselor's instructions and ask questions if needed. Respect the personal space of others and keep your body to yourself. Use appropriate recycling and garbage receptacles. Use kind language when talking to others.
- **Safety**-stay with the camp counselors at all times. Always listen to your counselor's instructions and ask questions if needed. Use walking feet and remain on all designated pathways, unless taken off path by Camp Counselors.

Examples of Unacceptable Behavior:

- Failing to follow the Code of Conduct (above)
- Disrupting programs (includes being asked multiple times to follow code of conduct/directions, etc.)
- Using inappropriate language (such as racial/ethnic slurs, swearing, etc.)
- Bullying, threatening, or physical abuse
- Mistreatment of animals, property, peers, Camp Counselors, or equipment

We believe that all children deserve a chance to change problematic behaviors with proper guidance from both our staff and support from their parents/guardians. We utilize behavior management techniques beginning with positive reinforcement for good behavior, redirection followed by verbal warnings, reduce free time, time outs, daily reports from staff, and communications with parents/guardians.

Consequences for Inappropriate Behavior:

The Topeka Zoo has the right to remove a camp participant from the program at any time. Consequences for inappropriate behavior will be administered in the following order. *

1. Verbal Warning — Reminder of behavior expectations.
2. Cool Down — Time out of next activity.
3. Reset with Camp Counselors — Separated from the group.
4. Phone Call Home — Camp Counselor calls parent/guardian.
5. Dismissal — Participant must leave Zoo premises with parent/guardian.

*If a child's actions are severe, steps may be skipped within this sequence. For example, physical violence toward anyone (peers, animals, Camp Counselors, other Topeka Zoo staff, etc.) is a zero-

tolerance event. No refunds will be offered for expulsion from the program. The Director of Education will make a final decision for expulsion from a program.

If your child's registration in camp is revoked due to behavioral and/or non-compliance issues, then your ability to register for future camps will be forfeited for at least one calendar year from the date of the incident. The zoo reserves the right to extend this policy on a case-by-case basis.

Please be assured that we have developed this policy with all participants and staff in mind and will implement it fairly with the goal of providing your child(ren) with a quality experience at the Topeka Zoo.

Acknowledgment of Topeka Zoo Camp Policies:

Guardian Name (please print): _____

Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Child's/Childrens' name(s): _____