

February 15, 2010

Dear Junior ZooKeepers and Parents:
(Please keep this letter for your records)

Thank you for your interest in the Erie Zoo's Junior ZooKeeper Program. As I am sure you are aware this is a unique educational opportunity that requires dedication, commitment and a sense of responsibility. Through your Junior ZooKeeper program, you will gain knowledge, new understandings and valuable experience. Many of our participants plan to follow a career path that will enable them to work with animals. This experience may help you to define your goals for the future.

To ensure that we can provide you with as valuable an experience as possible, the Junior ZooKeeper must complete the enclosed application and return it to the Erie Zoo Education Department as soon as possible. Parents must complete the enclosed Permission slip and Emergency Forms. All forms must be in the hands of the Education Department prior to your scheduled Junior ZooKeeper week. Please choose one orientation session from the list below **IF** you are new to the Jr. Zookeeper program. Please note that you must attend an orientation session prior to your scheduled Junior Zookeeper week. **Returning** participants need **not** attend an orientation session. If you have any questions, concerns or scheduling problems feel free to call me.

Sunday, June 6	5:00pm-6:30pm
Wednesday, June 16	5:00pm-6:30pm

Orientation will begin at the Activity Center at the front of the zoo. Enter through the door at the foot of the zoo office stairs.

About the program:

Jr. Zookeeper runs daily from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. We will open the Activity Center doors at approximately 7:50 a.m. Parents do not need to sign come with their children. We will have t-shirts available on the first day of camp. Wear your uniform every day. Your uniform consists of pants, capris or shorts (no cut-off shorts). Shorts should be at least fingertip length. Socks and **closed-toed** shoes are required. We do have air conditioning in the classroom so a sweatshirt is optional. Dress appropriately for the weather! We work outside rain or shine!

During the morning, the students will be able to experience 5 different "safe" jobs that the zookeepers do. They will work under the supervision of staff. The rest of the day consists of various activities, a mid-morning snack, and animal encounters in the classroom. You will have the chance to meet and talk to several different keepers this week as well as see some of the "behind the scenes" areas. Cameras are allowed and often used daily by the "Jr. Zookeeper Paparazzi". The use of electronic devices are otherwise prohibited during class or while working on the grounds. The exception is lunch where students may use cell phones or MP3 players.

Junior Zookeepers are entitled to our employee discount (40% off) and may purchase lunch from any of the concession stands if they wish. They may also bring their lunch. We do have a refrigerator available. Please note that the students are given approximately 45 minutes for a

lunch break. They may eat with staff in the classroom or they may eat at the picnic tables on the zoo grounds. We feel that at this age level they can be trusted with limited supervision during this time unless they give us a reason not to allow this freedom. Please respect the age limits for this program.

At 4:00, the Jr. Zookeepers will be brought back to the Activity Center gate where you pick them up. Please be aware that after 4:15 p.m., there will be a late fee of \$5.00 per 15 minutes.

Please call Kim Bowes, at (814) 864-4091 ext. 247 with any questions or concerns. Voice mail messages may be left at Kim's extension anytime of the day or night. Please remember to choose an orientation date on the application page if needed.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you this summer.

Sincerely,
Kim Bowes, Educator

Please mail completed forms to:

Kim Bowes
Erie Zoo
P.O. Box 3268
Erie, Pa 16508

Junior Zookeeper Application

To be completed by Jr. Zookeeper and returned to Erie Zoo by June 01, 2010.

Applicants Name _____
(First Name) (Last Name)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone Number _____ Date of Birth _____

School you will be attending in the fall _____

Grade you will be in _____ Adult shirt size _____

Have you done Jr. Zookeeper before? _____ If yes, how many years? _____

Please list your hobbies/ interests/clubs:

Please describe any previous experience you have had with animals:

Why do you want to be a Junior Zookeeper?

List at least 2 things you would like to learn in the Junior Zookeeper program:

I will be attending this training session (if a new participant)

_____ Sun. June 6, 5-6:30 p.m.

_____ Wed. June 16, 5-6:30 p.m.

I am scheduled for
this Jr. Zookeeper week:

Please read the following Junior Zookeeper rules with your parent
or guardian and sign the statement below.

1. Listen to the directions of the zoo staff and volunteers at ALL times.
2. Walk at all times and stay on the paths. Do not walk in the grass or through bushes unless you have permission from a staff member.
3. Do not feed the animals unless instructed to do so.
4. Do not tease or upset an animal in any way. Respect their space.
5. NEVER go behind a barrier or guardrail without permission of Zoo staff.
6. Talk quietly.
7. Do not leave a work area without the permission of Zoo staff.
8. Wear your uniform every day. Your uniform consists of your Jr. Zookeeper t-shirt and pants, capris or shorts (no cut-off shorts) Shorts should be at least fingertip length. Socks and **closed-toed** shoes are required.

I have read the above rules and understand that I will be expected to follow them, for the safety of the animals, other people, and myself. I also understand that if I break any of the above rules I may be excluded from certain activities or from the remainder of the program.

Jr. Zookeeper Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Emergency Information

To be completed by parent/ guardian and returned to Erie Zoo by June 01, 2010.

Name of Jr. Zookeeper:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Home Phone _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s)

(Please circle the phone number you can best be reached at from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Work Phone: _____

Cell phone: _____

If I cannot be reached in the event of an emergency, the following person/people are authorized to act on my behalf:

Phone _____

Relationship to Jr. Zookeeper _____

Physician's Name _____

Phone: _____

Date of last Tetanus Shot _____ (**Junior Zookeepers are required to have a current tetanus shot – within the last 10 years**)

Allergies:

Other medical problems or information staff should be aware of

Insurance Information:

Company _____

Policy # _____

Policyholder _____

The following people have permission to pick up my child from program:

Phone numbers:

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date _____

Junior ZooKeeper Permission Slip

To be completed by parent and returned to Erie Zoo by June 01, 2010

I, the undersigned parent or acting legal guardian of

(Junior ZooKeeper's Name)

hereby forever release and remise the Erie Zoological Society, its employees and volunteers, the Erie Municipal Park Authority and the City of Erie from any and all actions, causes of actions, suits, claims damages or other controversies pertaining to my child's participation in the Erie Zoological Society's Junior ZooKeeper program activities.

The undersigned fully understands the rights herein released and does so freely and without undue influence from the Erie Zoological Society.

In witness whereof, I have affixed my signature on the even date thereof.

Signed _____

Date _____