

January 2020

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 the Junior ZooKeeper program, participants 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 them to define their goals for the future.

To ensure that we can provide you with as valuable an experience as possible, all Junior ZooKeepers must pre-register. To be considered registered, you must **pre-pay** for this program and **complete the enclosed information packet and return it** to the Erie Zoo Education Department **as soon as possible**. Parents, please fill out 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. Spots sell out quickly so send in this information after you have paid to complete the registration process. You will not receive an additional confirmation letter or call. **Once payment and required forms are submitted, students are considered registered.**

****If you have any questions that were not addressed in this letter, please feel free to contact me at (814) 864-4091 x 247. I would be happy to talk with you or show you the areas the children will be working in.

About the program:

Jr. Zookeeper is a program for 11-17 year olds. We are offering 8 weeks of camp for 11-15 year olds and 1 week of camp for those aged 15 (who have taken a year or more of Jr. Zookeeper previously) to 17 years of age. The Advanced Program is the same as the program for younger students. The reasoning is so we won't have 11 year olds in the same class as 17 year olds. Jr. Zookeeper runs Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. We will open the Education Entrance (tiger-striped door) to the right of the main gate at approximately 7:50 a.m. A staff member will have you sign in your child. At the end of the day, parents should gather at the Education Entrance to sign their children out and retrieve them. We will have navy blue t-shirts available on the first day of camp. Campers should wear their shirts every day with pants, capris or shorts (no cut-off jean shorts). Shorts should be at least fingertip length. Socks and **sneakers** 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 at all times.** They will rotate through these jobs in pairs so they get to experience all of them. The five areas that the Junior Zookeepers will be helping with are: the Horse Barn, the Children's Zoo Barn, Diet Preparation, Reptile Care and the Small Animal Room. Tasks will include feeding and watering the animals, washing dishes, sweeping, raking, grooming, cutting and measuring vegetables and fruit, and more!

The rest of the day consists of various activities, a mid-morning snack, animal encounters in the classroom, and time spent assisting in the Children's Zoo. Students will have the chance to meet and talk to several different keepers this week, make an animal enrichment and 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 or tablets.

Junior Zookeepers are entitled to our employee discount (40% off) during their week of camp 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 **but not** a microwave. 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 pm, 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 my extension anytime of the day or night. Please remember to send in your information papers, emergency forms and permission slips **as soon as** you pay for the program in order to complete the registration process.

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 Information Sheet

To be completed by Jr. Zookeeper and returned to Erie Zoo **ASAP.**

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 _____

***Email Address** _____

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 have already registered for the week of: Please check only one....

- June 15-19 _____
- June 22-26 _____
- June 29- July 3 _____
- July 6-10 _____
- July 13-17 _____
- July 20-24 _____
- July 27-31 _____ (Advanced Session- 15-17 years)
- August 3-7 _____
- Aug. 10-14 _____

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 **sneakers** 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 ASAP

Name of Jr. Zookeeper:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Home Phone _____ Cell 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 ASAP

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 _____