



# 2020 Resident Camp

## Parent Handbook



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# Welcome

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Thank you for choosing Busch Gardens Camp for your child's summer camp program. We are dedicated to creating a safe, enriching and fun atmosphere for all of our campers. Busch Gardens Camp programs are accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). To achieve and maintain this accreditation, Busch Gardens Tampa complies with or exceeds standards set by the ACA.



## Busch Gardens' Camp Goals

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Based on a long-term commitment to education, Busch Gardens Camp strives to provide an enthusiastic, imaginative and intellectually stimulating atmosphere to help campers develop a lifelong appreciation, understanding and stewardship for our diverse natural environments and resources.

### Busch Gardens Camp goals are...

- to create a stimulating environment that encourages campers to become stewards of the natural world
- to focus on creating an atmosphere of building self-esteem in our campers with positive interactions and situations that build confidence
- to provide campers with opportunities for team work and problem solving

## Staffing

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The Education Department at Busch Gardens has a year-round team of experienced camp personnel. The senior camp team has years of experience teaching students of all ages. Our seasonal camp counselors are highly motivated, experienced college students and teachers that are carefully selected and screened. All camp staff participates in a wide range of training including classroom management, child development and discipline strategies. Our counselors possess American Red Cross (ARC) First Aid/CPR/AED certifications, medication administration training, and review safe driving practices. It is our goal to ensure a safe and enjoyable camp experience for all.

## Things to Share with Your Camper

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Whether you're 6 years old or 96 years old, homesickness is a very normal reaction at camp. The combination of unfamiliar surroundings and new people can be unsettling at first. We encourage parents/guardians to thoroughly read through the confirmation packet and to address expectations with your child in preparation for camp.

Following arrival and check-in, campers participate in several "icebreaker" activities to help everyone get acquainted. The activities are quick and include topics such as hometowns, favorite hobbies or even why they decided to attend a camp. Busch Gardens allows our campers to bring cell phones to keep in touch with their families in the evenings. If your camper calls home with feelings of homesickness, encourage him or her to speak directly to one of their counselors. Our counselors are dedicated to providing a fun and educational experience - and we encourage each camper to reach out to them if they experience any challenges or concerns.

# Registration Forms & CampDoc

All confirmation packet components, including health history and release forms, need to be completed and signed prior to camper participation in any camp. This summer, Busch Gardens Camps is partnering with CampDoc.com, the leading electronic health record system for camps. You can now complete and sign your camper's health information and releases electronically! The security and privacy of your camper's information is very important to us. The CampDoc.com site is secure, encrypted, and password protected. Only the Busch Gardens Camps' camp team will have access to your camper's information.



Having signed up for camp, you will receive an "Invitation" email from CampDoc.com within three business days of your registration. This "Invitation" email will include instructions for how to create and track your unique account. CampDoc.com sends out periodic reminder emails for incomplete information. These notifications will come from CampDoc.com, so please add this to your safe sender list to avoid accidental delivery to junk and spam folders.

Please note that CampDoc.com supports the current and previous major releases of Chrome, Firefox, Microsoft Edge, and Safari which provide improved security and performance for health information. If you have any questions regarding CampDoc.com, please contact us at [education@buschgardens.com](mailto:education@buschgardens.com).

Please plan to complete, sign, and return ALL confirmation materials, including health history forms, physical exam form, release forms, and travel itinerary to Busch Gardens three weeks prior to your camp date. Be sure to review the insurance information, medical history and over-the-counter medication forms carefully. Note that licensed medical personnel must sign the camper examination form (dated within 24 months of the camp start date), and a current health record is required.

## Registration Check List

Here is a check-list of all forms you will have access to on your camper's CampDoc profile. Registration is complete once you have reviewed and electronically signed all forms listed below:

- Camper Information and Health History
- Camper Medication Information and Over-The-Counter release
- Camper Examination (Completed by Licensed Medical Personnel)
- Medical Consent and Assumption of Risk
- Photo Release, Liability Release, Voluntary Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement
- Travel Information
- Vehicle Pass

# Arrival/Departure by Air

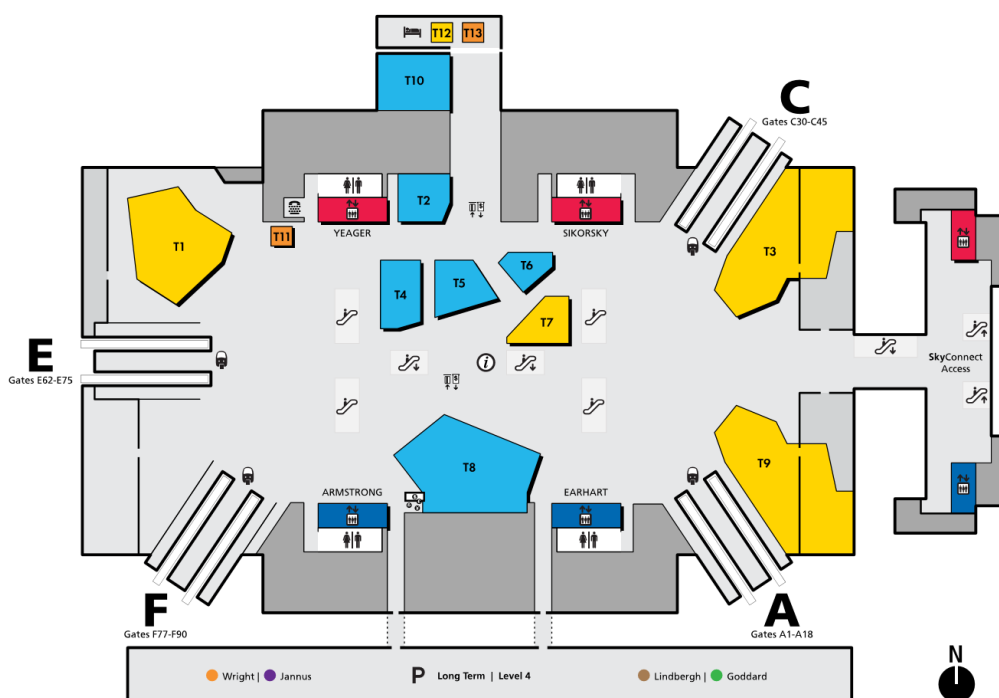
## Arriving by Air

For all camps, please schedule flights to arrive:

**NO EARLIER THAN 10:00 a.m. E.S.T.**

Camp staff will pick up campers at Tampa International Airport only. Please complete the “Participant Travel Information Form” and include a copy of the camper’s entire flight itinerary.

For Arrivals, all terminals at Tampa International Airport connect to the Airport Main Hub via a short tram ride. Resident Camp Counselors will be waiting at the camper’s tram gate.



For campers traveling as unaccompanied minors, most airlines require identification information for the camp staff meeting or dropping off your camper. The Education Department can accommodate this requirement **48 hours** prior to their arrival/departure time. Please call (813) 987-5172 or e-mail [education@buschgardens.com](mailto:education@buschgardens.com) no earlier than **48 hours** ahead to request this information. Leave a message and a resident camp counselor will return your call.

## Departing by Air

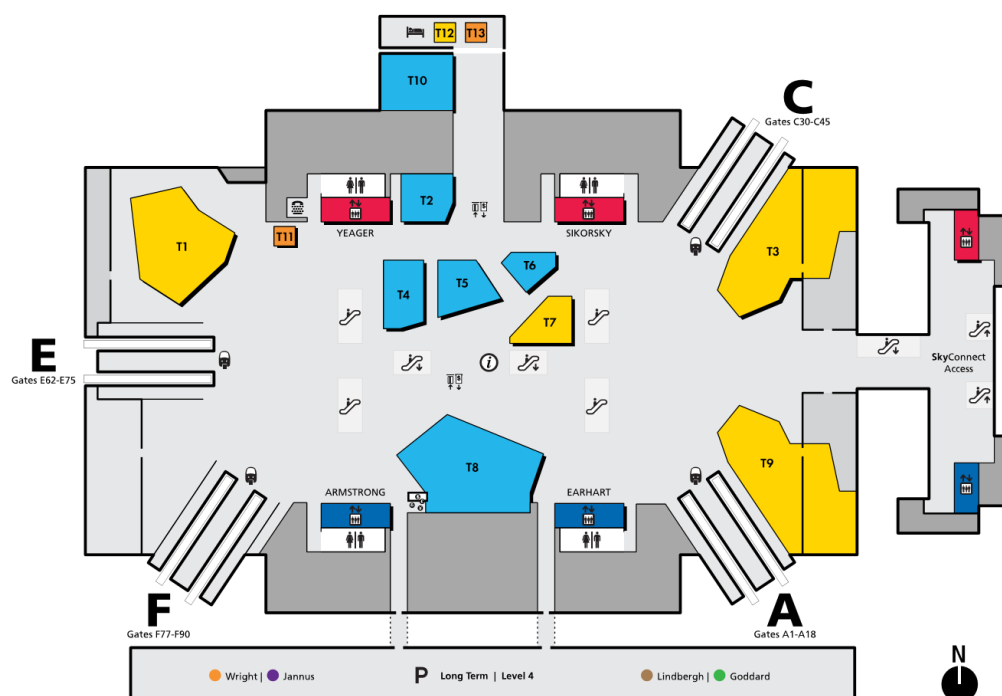
For all camps, please schedule flights to depart:

**NO LATER THAN 2:00 p.m. E.S.T.**

Camp staff will drop off campers at Tampa International Airport only. Please complete the “Participant Travel Information Form” and include a copy of the camper’s entire flight itinerary.

For departure, camp staff delivers all departing campers to the security checkpoint at the appropriate tram gate in the main terminal at Tampa International Airport.

Parents/guardians will be responsible for any extra baggage fees incurred at departure.



For campers traveling as unaccompanied minors, most airlines require identification information for the camp staff meeting or dropping off your camper. The Education department can accommodate this requirement **48 hours** prior to their departure time. Please call (813) 987-5172 or e-mail [education@buschgardens.com](mailto:education@buschgardens.com) no earlier than **48 hours** ahead to request this information. Leave a message and a resident camp counselor will return your call.

# Arrival/Departure by Vehicle

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## Arriving by Vehicle

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Parents/guardians are responsible for arranging drop off at Busch Gardens Mzinga Lodge dormitory during the designated time frame. Check-in begins at 11:00 a.m. Families are welcome to explore the dorm living area, meet staff, and help settle in campers until 12 p.m. when camp officially begins. Parent Orientation is at 11:45 a.m. and all parents are welcome to attend. Pick-up time is 8:00 a.m. on the last day of camp.

You will be able to download a complimentary parking pass from your camper's CampDoc profile. You must have this parking pass with you when dropping off or picking up your camper. Please contact us if you cannot locate your parking pass in your CampDoc profile.

**NO PETS** are allowed on property, so please leave your pets at home.

## Departing by Vehicle

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Parents/guardians are responsible for arranging pick up at Busch Gardens Mzinga Lodge dormitory during the designated time frame. Pick-up time is 8:00 a.m. on the last day of camp.

You will be able to download a complimentary parking pass from your camper's CampDoc profile. You must have this parking pass with you when dropping off or picking up your camper. Please contact us if you cannot locate your parking pass in your CampDoc profile.

**NO PETS** are allowed on property, so please leave your pets at home.

# Check-In

## Camp Nurse Check-In

Upon each campers' arrival, the camp nurse will review any medical concerns with them individually. Some examples of questions campers could be asked include: any changes to medications they are taking, current health status, any cold symptoms, or special medical needs. Health history summaries are confidential and remain with the counselors during the course of the program. **Upon review, if a camper is found to have a contagious condition, including head lice, the camper will be sent home (at the parent/guardian's expense) and their camp session will be rescheduled for a later date.**

## Medication

Prescriptions and over-the-counter medications must be given to Busch Gardens staff during check in. Only Health Services or trained camp staff will administer medications, as prescribed in writing by a physician, or as indicated by the manufacturer's directions.

All medications must be in their original containers displaying original labels with a physician's instructions or with manufacturer's directions. During the check-in process, the camp nurse will confirm and collect any medications from the camper, ensure medication is in its original container, and log dosage information for counselors to reference throughout the program.

Busch Gardens will provide most over-the-counter medications as needed; therefore we recommend leaving over-the-counter medications at home. Medications will not be dispensed without written physician and/or parent/guardian permission.

Please note that many over-the-counter (OTC) medicines do not list a designated dosage for children under 12 years of age. Busch Gardens' Medical Director has provided an appropriate dosage for younger children on these medicines provided by the park. You must both mark YES and sign the OTC release form to agree to allow Busch Gardens' staff to administer these select medications at the physician recommended dosage.



# Camp Policies

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Busch Gardens Camps strive to create an inclusive camp environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and that values the differences of our campers and staff. Specifically, Busch Gardens Camps prohibits discrimination or harassment based on age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression and disabilities.

All campers are expected to act in a responsible and courteous manner at all times. Upon arrival to the program, counselors will review examples of acceptable and unacceptable behavior.

## Code of Conduct

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The following actions/behaviors will result in an immediate dismissal from camp at the parent's expense:

- Consumption or possession of: alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco or vaping products
- Possession or use of a weapon— weapons ~~is~~ are defined as guns of any kind (Including toy guns), slingshots, penknives, switchblades, box cutters, or any other item prohibited by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Sexually explicit language or behavior
- Physical assault, fighting, bullying or harassment

In addition to the aforementioned actions/behaviors, stealing, damaging property, lying, cheating or the use of profanity is also not tolerated under any circumstance. Campers who display these behaviors could be asked to leave camp depending on the severity or frequency of the behavior.

Use of tobacco or vaping products (cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco) is not allowed. Any such item will be immediately confiscated and the incident reported to parents/guardians.

Campers are not permitted to enter the sleeping or changing areas of the opposite gender.

## Grooming Guidelines

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The staff holds each camper responsible for wearing suitable clothing and starting each day showered and groomed. Camp staff reserves the right to determine what apparel is appropriate and what constitutes an acceptable appearance for campers participating in the programming at Busch Gardens.

## Camp Property

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Campers are expected to be responsible citizens, in charge of maintaining any issued equipment, i.e. boots, combination lock, linens, etc. Loss of or intentional damage to the possessions of Busch Gardens or another camper will be repaired or replaced at the offending participant's (or the parent/guardian's) expense.

# Camp Policies

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## Curfew

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Curfew times will vary with program schedules, however, ALL participants are expected to be in bed and quiet by the designated “lights out” (usually 10:00 p.m. or earlier for younger campers). Our camp programs are strenuous and adequate rest for everyone, including counselors and other camp participants, is very important.

Campers are not permitted to leave camp premises unless escorted by Busch Gardens staff. Programs are highly structured and sequential activities are planned for each day. Therefore, leaves are not usually granted except in the event of a family emergency. Please contact the Resident Camp supervisor at 813-382-5578. If a participant leaves camp early, no refund will be given.

## Participation

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Busch Gardens Resident Camps offer enriching academic and social experiences that encourage students to pursue their interests in animals, science, and the environment.

Each camp program will be as fulfilling as the student makes it. We encourage and expect every camper to be responsible for him or herself by preparing for each day’s agenda, completing assignments, participating in field activities and projects, all while making many new friends.

Campers should be enthusiastic, self-directed, and prepared to get dirty, sweaty, and tired during amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experiences!

Throughout the week, rain or shine, campers may have exclusive encounters with amazing animals, ride unique roller coasters, and meet the professionals behind our world class zoo and theme park.

Camp staff will contact campers and/or parents/guardians up to two weeks prior to camp to ensure that campers have a clear understanding about what to expect while attending Resident Camp.

## Behavioral Concerns

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Campers are expected to adhere to all guidelines outlined within Camp Policies, as well as those set forth by the counselors. If a behavior problem arises, counselors will first discuss the issue with the individual. If it continues, the camper may forfeit participation in future program activities. Depending on the severity, a Busch Gardens representative will contact a parent to discuss the problem. Finally, if the problem is not resolved, the parents are responsible for providing transportation for the participant to leave the program and a refund will not be issued.

# Camp Policies

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## Transportation

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Busch Gardens provides all transportation throughout the program. Counselors will not permit any camper to enter or ride in any vehicle unless accompanied by park staff or their parents/guardians. For their safety, campers are not permitted to drive any park vehicle.

## Visitors

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Friends are NOT permitted to visit. Family visits may be scheduled with advanced notification and approval by the Resident Camp supervisor. However, to avoid interrupting this ambitious program, we suggest scheduling your visit after camper pick-up - and then allowing them to showcase their newfound knowledge.

## Housing

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The primary housing for Busch Gardens Resident Camp is Mzingo Lodge, a secured dormitory on Busch Gardens property. Counselors live at Mzingo Lodge with campers and an appropriate number of counselors will be in attendance at all times, based on the ACA's recommendations. Security personnel patrol park grounds 24 hours a day - as well as monitor dormitory and/or park perimeters, interior cameras, and the security alarm system.

## Meals

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Busch Gardens provides three meals each camp day - either at park restaurants, as bag/box meals for off property, or at local restaurants. Breakfast is continental (juice, milk, cereal, bagels, fruit, and toaster pastries). Water is always available, and we provide snacks and drinks at breaks and during field trips.

**ALLERGENS:** Some available food products may contain or have been processed in proximity to peanut and/or other allergenic ingredients. Please specify any dietary preferences, allergies and/or restrictions on the Health History Form, and elaborate on the possible reaction if consumed. While Busch Gardens can accommodate a simple vegetarian diet, please provide non-perishable supplements for more complex dietary needs.

# Camp Policies

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## Phone Calls

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We encourage all campers to contact their parents/guardians upon arrival. Campers may use the dorm office phone or personal cell phone during free time in the evening. Camp staff will collect and store all cell phones upon arrival. We will distribute cell phones to campers during free time for calling family and friends, or if there is a family emergency. Carrying cell phones or other electronic gear during a regular camp day or after lights out is not permitted.

To leave a message for your camper or for camp staff, please call the dorm, (813) 987-5172 and leave a voice mail message. You may e-mail them at [education@BuschGardens.com](mailto:education@BuschGardens.com). Resident Camps are fast paced and you may not receive a call back from your camper until the evening.

If you have an emergency, you may leave a detailed message and phone number where you can be reached on the Camp Hotline, (813) 987-5848. Camp staff is automatically paged from this emergency hotline and will respond or forward the message to your camper.

## Park Admission

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After camp concludes, Resident Camp participants may be readmitted to Busch Gardens at no additional charge (only valid for Busch Gardens Tampa). If requested, your camper will receive a Busch Gardens park admission ticket allowing him or her free park admission for that day. Visiting family members must pay the general admission fee.

# Camp Schedules & Itineraries

Campers participate in a variety of activities every day and our schedule is very fluid to accommodate the unique nature of a zoological theme park. Campers will spend their day enjoying attractions at Busch Gardens, experiencing immersive exhibits showcasing animals from around the world, participating in learning labs and crafts within our educational classrooms, and connecting with our animal ambassadors up close and personal. Games, crafts, labs, and activities change periodically to create a unique camp experience for your child.

All program components are subject to change. Inclement weather and other unforeseeable conditions may force necessary changes to program components. Components listed are representative of your upcoming experience and will not necessarily take place on the specific days or in the order shown.

Here is a sample schedule of what your camper's week could look like:

## **Day 1**

Arrive at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida, meet counselors and other campers, and attend the opening ceremony. Get to know your new friends while exploring the park and learning about the adventures in store for you before heading to bed at Mzinga Lodge.

## **Day 2**

Rise and shine, and prepare for a full day of exciting animal encounters and entertainment experiences with the counselors of Busch Gardens. Experience state-of-the-art rides and learn "trade secrets" about animal training and the qualifications needed to work as an animal care professional in one of our parks.

## **Day 3**

Get ready for fun in the sun as you explore more of Busch Gardens, SeaWorld or chill out at our nearby water parks, Adventure Island or Aquatica! Explore behind-the-scenes areas and get up close with some of our animal ambassadors. After dinner, we'll party and dance with the DJs at our Summer Nights extravaganza.

## **Day 4**

Gather your gear for an exciting field trip! Each camp will head to a different destination for a new adventure. From exploring Florida's aquatic habitats to ziplining through the treetops, each camp has something special in store. Return to Busch Gardens for another night of fun and camaraderie.

## **Day 5**

Wrap up the week with a few of our favorite things - feed lorikeets, get a hot breakfast, or spend your extra time enjoying a few last minute rides and shopping. Prepare to present your camp project and then join the entire camp for the closing ceremony and goodbyes.

## **Day 6**

All campers prepare to depart from Busch Gardens. Pack up, say your farewells, and don't forget to collect contact information from your new friends. You will want to stay in touch and sign up for the same camp next summer! Program ends at 8 a.m.

# Camp Schedules & Itineraries

Campers participate in a variety of activities every day and our schedule is fluid to accommodate the unique nature of a zoological theme park. Campers will spend their day enjoying attractions at Busch Gardens, experiencing immersive exhibits showcasing animals from around the world, participating in learning labs and crafts within our educational classrooms, and connecting with our animal ambassadors up close and personal.

Our camp activities and schedules are subject to change due to weather, animal needs, park operation or various other unforeseen circumstances without notice.



## Camp-o-Meter

In a effort to better help campers and their parents best prepare for their camp experience, we have developed a Camp-o-Meter. The graphic below showcases the three overarching elements that make up our camp programs and highlights the degree at which campers may experience each element. Our camp icon is placed on a sliding scale to highlight how present an element is within a specific camp. Elements are rated as:

- **Mild**—This element is still present within the camp’s itineraries, just not a main focus
- **Wild**—This element is a main focus for this camp
- **Middle**—Element is considered balanced within the itinerary when icon is placed in middle

The three elements that make up the majority of our camp itineraries are:

- **Animals**— Experiencing our diverse animal collection
- **Attractions**—Experiencing our world-class attractions
- **Conservation**—Experiencing a in-depth look at conservation in action

### Animals



### Attractions



### Conservation



# 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Zoo Explorers

Encounter a variety of animals-from giraffes to lemurs to kangaroos, and uncover each species' unique adaptations for survival. Enjoy a special geocaching adventure and go on an African safari-in Florida! Enjoy all the amazing rides, shows and attractions at Busch Gardens, plus the "splashtastic" water fun of Adventure Island. This camp is adventurous exploring at its best!

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY				AUG	
6-11	13-18	20-25	27-2	4-9	11-16	18-23	25-30	1-6	8-13
●		●		●		●		●	

### Camp-o-Meter

#### Animals



#### Attractions



#### Conservation



# 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Adventurous Explorers

Explore how groups of plants and animals live together within their physical environment to compose an ecosystem. A successful ecosystem is shaped by all living things, the soil and the weather. Search for native wildlife as you truck across the Serengeti Plain™ or trek through Jungala. Swim the wetlands of Adventure Island and feel the winds of a world class rollercoaster at both SeaWorld and Busch Gardens, all in the company of your new best friends!

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY				AUG	
6-11	13-18	20-25	27-2	4-9	11-16	18-23	25-30	1-6	8-13
	●		●		●		●		

### Camp-o-Meter

#### Animals



#### Attractions



#### Conservation





# 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## ThrillVentures

Looking for a NEW breed of adventure? Challenge world class rides and shows at Busch Gardens, SeaWorld and Aquatica. Defy gravity on Florida's first triple launch coaster, Cheetah Hunt, experience up-close interactions with awesome animals and splash away summer heat in the cool pools at Aquatica. Rise to the challenge of our thrilling travel camp designed just for adventurous kids like you!

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY				AUG	
6-11	13-18	20-25	27-2	4-9	11-16	18-23	25-30	1-6	8-13
●		●		●		●		●	

### Camp-o-Meter



# 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## AnimalVentures

How do animals around the globe come together in interesting ways to help the world go 'round? From aardvark to zebra, every animal has a role that they're perfectly adapted to fill! You and other campers will work together, to uncover the hidden secrets of wildlife in up-close animal encounters, conquer Busch Gardens' amazing rollercoasters, and make memories that last a lifetime!

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY				AUG	
6-11	13-18	20-25	27-2	4-9	11-16	18-23	25-30	1-6	8-13
	●		●		●		●		●

### Camp-o-Meter

#### Animals



#### Attractions



#### Conservation



# 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Land & Sea Adventures

Looking for the best of both worlds? Start your adventure at Busch Gardens, Tampa, and spend the first night watching tigers being tigers after dark. Next travel to SeaWorld where your next two days will be busy with up-close animal experiences, meeting marine biologists, and exploring behind the scenes of SeaWorld's animal habitats—all before sleeping beside polar animals, rescued manatees, or sea turtles. Once back at Busch Gardens, uncover the inner workings of a premier zoo and meet the animal care professionals that keep it running smoothly. Come face to face with incredible animals from around the globe: rainbow colored-lorikeets to towering giraffes and Komodo dragons, oh my!

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY			
8-13	15-20	22-27	29-4	6-11	13-18	20-25	27-1
●		●		●		●	●

### Camp-o-Meter

#### Animals



#### Attractions



#### Conservation



# 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

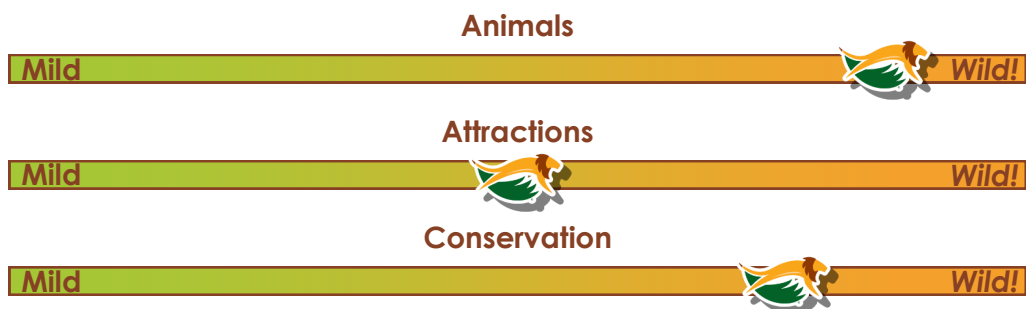
## Land & Sea Careers

Trying to decide if you want to work with land or sea animals? Explore opportunities at both a marine and a terrestrial animal park to learn the differences between these two career paths. Start your adventure at Busch Gardens, Tampa, and spend the first night watching tigers being tigers after dark. Next travel to SeaWorld where your next two days will be busy with up-close animal experiences, meeting marine biologists, and exploring behind the scenes of SeaWorld's animal habitats—all before sleeping beside polar animals, rescued manatees, or sea turtles. Once back at Busch Gardens, uncover the inner workings of a premier zoo and meet the animal care professionals that keep it running smoothly. Come face to face with incredible animals from around the globe: rainbow colored-lorikeets to towering giraffes and Komodo dragons, oh my!

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY			AUG
8-13	15-20	22-27	29-4	6-11	13-18	20-25	3-8
	●		●		●		

### Camp-o-Meter



# 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

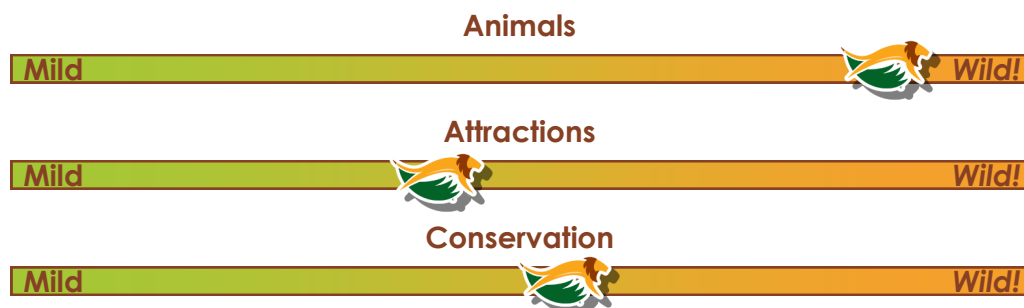
## Zookeeping 101

Experience first-hand what it takes to care for a variety of exotic animals from giraffes and hippos to tigers and crocs. Assist zookeepers with their daily routine from cleaning animal habitats and distributing diets, to joining up-close animal encounters and observing veterinary care. Plus enjoy all the thrilling rides and world-class shows at Busch Gardens and chill out at Adventure Island.

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY				AUG	
6-11	13-18	20-25	27-2	4-9	11-16	18-23	25-30	1-6	8-13
●		●		●		●		●	●

### Camp-o-Meter



# 10<sup>th</sup> Grade - College

## Zookeeping 201

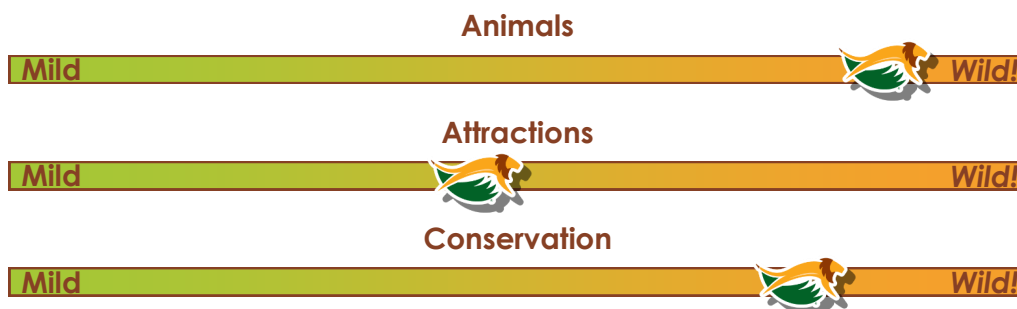
Use your past experience to hone your husbandry skills. Work alongside Busch Gardens' animal care experts while providing animal care at one of the nation's largest zoos. Put your knowledge about wildlife at risk into action during an all hands-on deck conservation project offsite. And of course enjoy all the world class rides, shows, and animal exhibits Busch Gardens has to offer.

Prerequisites for this camp are Zookeeping 101 or related experience working with animals.

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY				AUG	
6-11	13-18	20-25	27-2	4-9	11-16	18-23	25-30	1-6	8-13
	●		●		●		●		●

### Camp-o-Meter



# 11<sup>th</sup> Grade - College

## Zoo Careers

Considering a future in the animal care field? This is your chance to sample a zoo career in the company of zoo professionals! This intense camp allows you to explore animal care in a specific animal area. Zoo Careers includes everything from scrubbing, raking and preparing animal diets, to sharing animal information with park guests. Campers work behind the scenes daily, with the opportunity to network and ask hard questions about best practices or career direction. Yet—still there's time to enjoy all the world class rides, shows, and animal exhibits Busch Gardens has to offer.

Prerequisite for this camp is Zookeeping 201 or related experience working with animals.

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY				AUG	
6-11	13-18	20-25	27-2	4-9	11-16	18-23	25-30	1-6	8-13
●		●		●		●		●	

### Camp-o-Meter



# 12<sup>th</sup> Grade - College

## Vet Careers

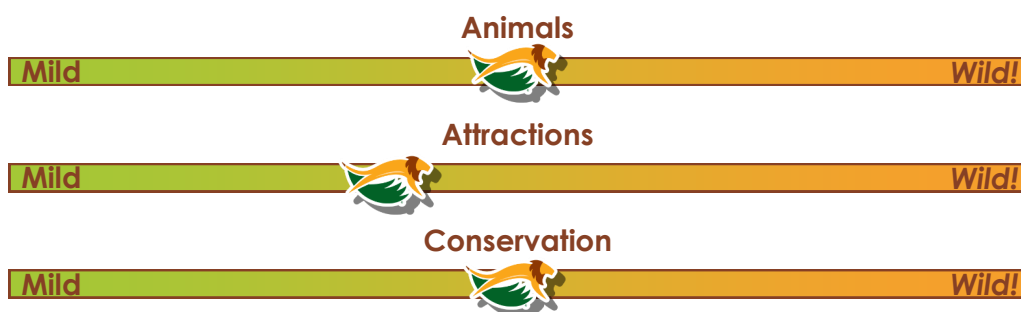
Aspiring to become a professional in veterinary healthcare? Join our Vet Career's staff as you shadow the vet team on rounds, participate in labs and professional development classes, and observe procedures. Campers work behind-the-scenes to explore what it means to be a veterinary caretaker at a world-class zoo. After hours, enjoy all that Busch Gardens and SeaWorld have to offer.

Prerequisites for this camp are Zoo Careers and a high school diploma, or dual enrollment as a 12th grade student in a college program or technical school (documentation required).

### Dates Offered

JUNE				JULY				AUG	
6-11	13-18	20-25	27-2	4-9	11-16	18-23	25-30	1-6	8-13
	●		●		●		●		

### Camp-o-Meter





# Week Extensions

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In extended camp, campers enjoy almost two weeks at Busch Gardens. Between camps, everyone explores the Tampa Bay area together for two extra days. Throughout camp, combo kids enjoy all the world class rides, shows, and animal exhibits Busch Gardens and Adventure Island, have to offer.

## Great Explorations Grades 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

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Zoo Explorers and Adventurous Explorers

## XtremeVentures Grades 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>

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AnimalVentures and ThrillVentures

## Zookeeping the Series Grades 10<sup>th</sup>- College

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Zookeeping 101 and Zookeeping 201

## Zookeeping Intensive Grades 10<sup>th</sup>- College

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Zookeeping 201 and Zoo Careers

## Careers In-Depth Grades 11<sup>th</sup>- College

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Zoo Careers and Vet Careers

# Preparing For Camp

Our residential camp programs are fun, educational camp opportunities. The majority of the activities take place outdoors. The climate in Florida is very warm and humid with afternoon temperatures average 90°F+ and the evening temperature is typically 80°F. Thunderstorms are also common on summer afternoons. Pack cool, cotton or wicking clothing and plenty of sunscreen to avoid heat distress and sunburn.

Campers represent Busch Gardens throughout camp activities and counselors reserve the right to determine appropriate apparel while attending Resident Camp. Our camp dress policy requires comfortable but neat, conservative clothing at all times: hemmed shorts or slacks, a camp T-shirt, camp name tag, and closed-toe shoes.

Busch Gardens provides two camp T-shirts and campers are expected to wear them during most scheduled activities and during park free time. Since time for washing laundry is minimal, extra T-shirts will be available for \$10.00 each. You may bring cash to purchase them at check-in.

Campers will be participating in water activities at our water parks, Adventure Island or Aquatica, or local beaches. For their safety, all campers are required to wear their Camp t-shirt over their bathing suit. This allows camp and park staff to easily identify campers

Since many zoo activities involve getting dirty and sweaty, a wash day is scheduled by the camp team weekly to do basic laundry needs - primarily T-shirts and work clothes.

Combo and 12-night campers will have all their clothes washed for the upcoming camp week(s) between camp programs, so it is only necessary to pack for one week. See the packing list and be sure to pack a collapsible, washable laundry bag.

Please limit your suitcase to no more than 9 inches thick so it will fit beneath the bunk.



## Shopping

All meals, drinks, and snacks, are provided by Busch Gardens for the duration of the camp. Campers should bring only enough money for souvenirs, necessary personal items, or batteries. Large amounts of cash are not necessary. We suggest that you bring prepaid credit cards for shopping instead of extra cash.

**BUSCH GARDENS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR STOLEN OR LOST MONEY OR VALUABLES.**

# Preparing For Camp

## Packing List

### Clothes

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Be conservative but pack for 6 days.

- Conservative, comfortable shirts
- Hemmed shorts and/or pants (No cut-offs, Spandex or Lycra)
- Lightweight jacketed or long-sleeved shirt
- Undergarments
- Socks— shoes and socks are required for zoo activities and recommended to be worn at all times
- Bathing suit— Females: one piece suits or tankinis (bikinis, thongs or other revealing attire are not allowed) Males: trunks and rash guard or other swim shirt
- 2 pairs of closed-toe walking shoes (sneakers or hiking boots)
  - ◆ Closed-toe shoes are required for zoo activities and recommended to be worn at all times
  - ◆ Slippers or footwear without heel straps are only permitted inside Mzinga Lodge
  - ◆ Busch Gardens provides rubber boots for campers working in animal areas
  - ◆ It is important to bring an extra pair of closed-toe shoes in the event of inclement weather
- Aqua socks or immersible sandals with a heel strap (optional and highly recommended) for aquatic activities
- Pajamas— Conservative, unrevealing sleepwear is required (tops and bottoms required)

### Work Clothes

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(Zookeeping 101, Zookeeping 201, Zoo Careers and Vet Careers only)

- 5 Pairs of thick boot socks (up to your knees) or tube socks to wear with boots to prevent chaffing/blisters
- Hemmed tan or green khaki pants/shorts (No shorter than 5 inches above knee). Jeans are not permitted in zoo work areas. If your shorts are not the appropriate length, you will be asked to change into other shorts/pants

# Preparing For Camp

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## Toiletries

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- Soap
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Tooth Brush
- Tooth paste
- Hair brush/hair dryer
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene supplies

## Dorm Supplies & Suggested Accessories

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| • One standard combination lock for locker         | ball-style or approved safari hats may be worn                |
| • One set of linens (regular twin) or sleeping bag | • Lanyard strap for glasses/sunglasses                        |
| • Blanket and pillow                               | • Camera (separate from smartphone, iPod, or iPad)            |
| • Towels & wash cloths                             | • Cell phone (will be available evenings during select times) |
| • Shower tote                                      | • Book light  |
| • Beach towels                                     | • Spending money for souvenirs                                |
| • Laundry bag                                      | • Photo I.D. for airline travel                               |
| • Insect repellent                                 | • Medical insurance card (or a copy)                          |
| • Sunscreen (We recommend SPF 30+)                 |   |
| • Hat- for safety, only snug fitted base-          |   |

## Do not bring

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- Vehicles, roller blades/skates, skateboards, heelys, or bicycles
- Excessive jewelry—Shiny, dangling items are attractive to many animals, whether on a person or dropped on the floor. Therefore, only one pair of either plain hoops, one inch in diameter or less, or simple studs are acceptable earrings. Modest facial piercings are permitted at staff's discretion. We recommend that campers not wear jewelry while working in the zoo.
- Dressy clothes or clothing with suggestive or questionable logos/language
- Flat irons or curling irons
- Valuables (e.g. iPods, MP3 players, computers or personal game systems)
- Perishable snacks (e.g. foods that need refrigeration)
- NO PETS are allowed on property, so please leave your pets at home.

# Camp Safety

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## Medical Services

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Safety is first and foremost a part of every element of Busch Gardens Camp. For all minor injuries and illnesses that occur at a park, the Busch Gardens, Adventure Island or SeaWorld Health Services team is available and will address your camper's medical needs. Counselors are also trained in American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED and equipped with a first aid kit and AED while offsite. In the unlikely event a serious injury or illness occurs, participants will be transported to Advent Health Tampa, which is within two miles of Busch Gardens. A Busch Gardens representative will contact you in case such an emergency arises. In order to administer medical services to your camper, all medical liability releases, health history forms, and insurance information must be completed and signed *before* arriving at camp. Also, please make sure at least one phone number is a U.S.-based phone number.

## Weather Emergencies

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Camp management and counselors balance the components of the program with the current weather conditions. Weather conditions are monitored closely by our Security department. The enjoyment of the park elements is contingent upon the proximity and nature of weather factors such as lightning or high winds. Rain and afternoon thunderstorms are common in Florida and may affect some camp activities. In the event of lightning or tornado warnings in the immediate vicinity, campers will be moved to the closest indoor location until the threat has passed. Indoor activities are planned if thunderstorms prevail.

Our park observes strict weather protocols. When lightning has been spotted within 3 miles of our park, for everyone's safety, guests and team members are required to seek shelter. Once the weather passes, we can resume activities.

During more severe weather, such as a hurricane, camp management will make a decision about canceling a camp on a case-by-case basis. Once camp is canceled, it cannot be rescheduled for the original date even if the weather clears or other factors change. Parents/guardians will be contacted in a timely manner should such an event occur. Camp is not canceled for rain. In the event of dangerous weather (i.e. hurricane) we will notify you the day before about camp closure.

## Rides

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All park guidelines for guests when riding a ride also apply to campers (i.e. height restrictions and disabilities). Campers who choose not to participate in this element will be accompanied to another activity by a counselor until the entire group has disembarked the ride.

# Refunds & Cancellations

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In the event that your child is unable to attend camp, here is our cancellation/refund policy:

- A \$25 processing fee will be withheld from all refunds.
- Cancellations received six weeks prior to camp will result in a 100% refund minus a \$25 processing fee per child
- Cancellations received three to six weeks prior to camp will result in a 50% refund minus a \$25 processing fee per child
- Cancellations received less than three weeks prior to camp will not be refunded.
- Partial refunds are not granted for any of the following: late arrivals, camper's choice to leave early, partial week attendance, at the parent's request, or asked to leave due to non-compliance of the camper code of conduct.
- Campers who experience a medical emergency prior to the start of their camp session can receive a full refund, minus the processing fee, if a written notice (provided by their doctor) is submitted advising they can not participate in the camp program.
- Campers have the option to rebook their camp to a different camp of equal value and within the same calendar year, pending availability, at no additional charge.

While unlikely, Busch Gardens Camp does reserve the right to cancel an entire camp offered due to lack of enrollment, unforeseen severe weather conditions, or other scheduling conflicts. Parents will be notified as soon as this decision is made. The Busch Gardens Camp Leadership team will work with families to rebook their camper to another camp within the calendar year, pending availability. If rebooking to a different camp is not available, a full refund will be processed. Camp is not cancelled for rain.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q. What are living conditions like during Busch Gardens Resident Camps programs?

A. Most Resident Campers stay at Mzinga Lodge, Busch Gardens' on-property dormitory, which houses up to 60 campers. Males and females have separate sleeping quarters, locker rooms, and bathroom facilities. Each bathroom facility contains four private shower stalls, sinks, and toilets. There are lockers for storing and securing personal possessions and toiletries—please bring a standard combination lock. Sleeping arrangements consist of two bunk beds separated by a corridor, four campers to a bunkroom. Mzinga Lodge is air-conditioned and contains a classroom, commons room, dining area, infirmary, and laundry room. Please limit the size of your suitcase to no more than 11 inches thick so that it will fit beneath the bunk beds.

## Q. Who are the Busch Gardens Resident Camps team members?

A. The Education Department at Busch Gardens has a year-round team of experienced camp personnel. The senior camp team has years of experience teaching students of all ages. Our seasonal resident camp counselors are highly motivated, experienced college students that are carefully selected and background screened. They spend three weeks training at the zoo facility prior to the campers' arrival. Our entire resident camp team trains and possesses First Aid, CPR, AED, Medication Administration, Epi-pen Administration, and reviews safe driving practices in the camp vehicles once they arrive at Busch Gardens.

The American Camp Association (ACA) accredits Busch Gardens Resident Camp, which exceeds ACA standards to ensure a safe and enjoyable camp experience for all. Busch Gardens follows ACA's suggested guidelines for establishing the number of counselors necessary to oversee a resident camp group. Camps for elementary, secondary, and college students are often on the premises at the same time and our properly trained team allow for a well-managed atmosphere when conducting these camps simultaneously.

Age of Campers	Number of Counselors	Number of Overnight Campers
9-14 years	1	8
15-18 years	1	10

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q. How close and how often will my camper see animals?

A. Participants in **Zookeeping 101**, **Zookeeping 201**, **Zoo Careers** and **Vet Careers** become amateur zookeepers during camp as they work alongside zoo professionals and camp counselors. Campers assist zookeepers as they deliver diets in addition to clean and prepare habitats using all the tools of the trade: shovels, rakes, gloves, wheel barrows and buckets. During any zoo husbandry experience, campers may observe behavioral training or medical treatments, all while experiencing unrivaled encounters with many of the diverse species at this zoological facility.

All Busch Gardens' resident camps include a tour across Busch Gardens' Serengeti Plain and several face-to-face animal encounters with the Education Department's animal ambassadors. Over the course of every camp, we will introduce campers to animal biodiversity: crocodilians, snakes, tortoises, lions, hyenas, tigers, hippos, gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans, rhinos, giraffes, zebras, flamingos, parrots, and many more. Busch Gardens Resident Camps are progressive by design and prepare campers for more in-depth experiences in the next level of camp programming. Each grade level connects to the appropriate Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and National Science Standards

## Q. What are the differences between Zookeeping 101, Zookeeping 201, Zoo Careers, and Land & Sea Careers?

A. **Zookeeping 101**, for students in 10-12th grade, is a first level zookeeping camp. Campers rotate through three different zoo areas, working alongside zookeepers and counselors from 6:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The zoo area rotations are chosen by lottery and campers have the opportunity to visit a variety of zoo areas and animal species: Animal Connections, Zoo Nutrition Center, Bird Gardens which includes reptiles and amphibians, Edge of Africa, Jungala or the Serengeti Plain. This camp includes a day trip to another local zoo and Adventure Island.

**Zookeeping 201**, for students 10th grade - college, is a second level zoo experience, and previous attendance in Zookeeping 101 or Careers at SeaWorld is preferred. Previous work or volunteer assistance in another animal care facility is acceptable. These zoo area campers work one full shift alongside zookeepers and counselors, rotating through zoo areas from 6:30a.m. -3p.m. This camp includes a day trip to Tampa Bay Watch for an introduction to conservation in action and the beaches.

**Zoo Careers**, for students in 11th grade - college, is a third level zookeeping camp. Previous attendance in Zookeeping 201 or Careers at SeaWorld, prior experience working or volunteering in an animal care facility, or current enrollment in a zoologically focused degree program are preferred. Zoo Careers includes an expanded zoo experience in a single zoo area. Each camper becomes proficient in his/her selected zoo area: Cheetah Run, Bird Gardens which includes reptiles and amphibians, Edge of Africa, Jungala, or the Serengeti Plain. Campers submit three zoo area choices on a questionnaire and camp staff then place the students in one of the three preferred zoo areas. Zoo Careers includes a field trip to Mote Marine Laboratory one afternoon.



# Frequently Asked Questions

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**Vet Careers**, for college students only, is for campers who have previously attended Zoo Careers and are currently enrolled in a pre-vet curriculum. Campers will shadow an on-staff veterinarian during rounds three mornings to observe medical procedures in the treatment room of the Animal Care Center. Vet Careers includes a field trip to SeaWorld and interactive lab sessions.

**Land and Sea Careers**, for students in 10-12<sup>th</sup> grade, are for campers who want to explore opportunities at both a marine and a terrestrial animal park and learn the differences between these two career paths. Campers spend the two nights at SeaWorld to visit marine animals' habitats, swim at Aquatica and experience shows and coasters at SeaWorld. At Busch Gardens, campers interact with terrestrial animals, and then experience shows and coasters at Busch Gardens.

**Q. Do campers have to participate in all activities?**

A. We design events to be enjoyable and realize that sometimes the schedule includes something new for some participants. Everyone is encouraged to participate to the best of their ability during group activities.

**Q. Do I need to sign all the registration forms and releases?**

A. For campers to attend Busch Gardens Resident Camps, it is mandatory that all forms and releases be filled out accurately and completely, are signed online by an adult parent/guardian on CampDoc before camp starts. All forms and releases should be completed no later than 3 weeks prior to your camp start date. Note: a physical exam **within 12 months of the camp start date** is required. If you are utilizing a school physical to meet the physical exam requirement, you will still need to have your physician sign the physical exam release, enclosed. Proof of medical insurance is requested.

# Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What are some possible health concerns of the program and how can these issues be prevented?**

**A.** Participants will have the opportunity to ride roller coasters and other theme park rides on which they may experience high speeds and zero gravity. Campers will also be in close proximity to many species of animals where they may encounter the animals and associated dander, feathers, or food items. It is imperative to note any health issues or known food, animal or insect, and plant allergies on the *Health History Form*, and to elaborate on the severity of any condition or reaction.

NOTE: Some available food products may contain or have been processed in proximity to peanut and/or other allergenic ingredients. Please specify any dietary preferences, allergies and/or restrictions on the *Health History Form*, and elaborate on the possible reaction if consumed or touched. While Resident Camps can accommodate a simple vegetarian diet, please provide non-perishable supplements for more complex dietary needs or dietary restrictions.

While every zoo encounter is a controlled experience, the animal world is not totally predictable and a quill prick or unexpected nip is possible, although unlikely. Off-site, campers may accidentally contact jellyfish or stingrays if at the beach, or fall victim to mosquitoes, wasps, or fire ants almost anywhere. These Florida inhabitants can inflict bites or stings that are readily treatable with Over-the-Counter (OTC) medications. Be sure to review and sign the *OTC Medications Release Form*. Busch Gardens staff CANNOT DISPENSE ANY MEDICATIONS WITHOUT PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION.

Sun, heat, and humidity can be a dangerous mix in Florida. Participants must wear sunscreen and protective clothing (e.g. light, cotton clothing, a hat, and sunglasses) and drink plenty of water to prevent sunburn and overheating.

**Q. Are there Health Concerns for which my child may be sent home?**

**A.** Some skin conditions, respiratory ailments, and other diseases are highly contagious for people and animals. If a Health Services team member identifies your camper as being infectious or that he/she has an elevated temperature upon arrival, we may be forced to send him/her home at your expense. Please evaluate any skin irritations or general health problems before coming to camp in order to avoid any inconvenience, expense, or disappointment. The Camp Nurse will be doing a head check for head lice upon your child's arrival at the dormitory. If your child exhibits signs of head lice, we will be forced to send the child home until treatment is completed. Please do a head check before coming to camp.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q. Do I need to send over-the-counter medications for my child?**

**A.** Health Services keeps the most common over-the-counter (OTC) medications on-hand for all of our park guests, including campers. It is not necessary to send any of these medicines to camp!

Because we cannot dispense any medication without parental and/or physician authorization, please be sure to sign the *OTC Medication Release Form* and note the available OTC medicines. For the safety of all campers, all medicines, OTC and/or prescription, are collected by Health Services upon arrival and dispensed as required.

Please note that many over-the-counter (OTC) medicines do not list a designated dosage for children under 12 years of age. Busch Gardens' Medical Director has provided an appropriate dosage for younger children on some of these medicines provided by the park. You must both mark YES and sign the OTC release form to agree to allow Busch Gardens' staff to administer these select medications at the physician recommended dosage.

## **Q. What is the procedure in a medical emergency?**

**A.** For all minor injuries and illnesses that occur at any of the parks, the SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment Health Services team is available. For minor injuries that occur off-site, counselors carry a first aid kit and AED, and are trained in basic First Aid, CPR, AED, Medication Administration, and Epi-pen Administration. For serious injuries and illnesses, participants will be transported to the closest hospital. Advent Health Tampa, a local hospital, is within two miles of Busch Gardens or Adventure Island, and Sand Lake Hospital is within three miles of SeaWorld Orlando. For your child's safekeeping, it is required that all your medical consent to treat, medical history forms, and insurance information are complete before registration is considered complete. A Busch Gardens representative will contact you in case of an emergency. A Health Services team member stays onsite overnight throughout camp.

## **Q. Are campers able to wash their own clothes?**

**A.** A wash day is scheduled by the camp team once weekly to do only basic laundry—primarily T-shirts and work clothes since zoo activities do involve dirt and sweat. Since each camper carries, loads, and unloads his/her own gear at camp, please only pack what your camper will need for the week.

Multi-week campers will have all their clothes washed for the upcoming camp week(s) between camp programs, so it is only necessary to pack for one week. See the suggested *Packing List* and be sure to pack a collapsible, washable laundry bag.

Campers will be given two camp T-shirts for each camp session. If you would like to purchase extra shirts at \$10 each (tax included), please send or bring cash to purchase these at check-in. Please limit the size of any suitcase to no more than 12 inches thick so it will fit beneath the bunk beds.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q. What type of food is served during the program?

A. Busch Gardens provides all meals throughout the course of the program. Breakfast is continental style and includes juice, milk, cold cereals, bagels, yogurt, and fresh fruit. Most other meals are eaten at the park restaurants, with foods ranging from burgers to spaghetti to fajitas, and pizza is delivered one evening.

NOTE: Some available food products may contain or have been processed in proximity to peanut and/or other allergenic ingredients. Please specify any dietary preferences, allergies and/or restrictions on the *Health History Form*, and elaborate on the possible reaction if consumed. While Resident Camps can accommodate a simple vegetarian diet, please provide non-perishable supplements for more complex dietary needs.

You may send non-perishable, individually sealed snacks such as cookies, crackers and granola bars. Counselors collect and store all food items upon arrival. To avoid attracting pests into the living areas of the dorm, campers may not store or eat foods in the bunk or locker room areas. Refrigerators are not available for personal food items unless you are providing special dietary needs for your child that require refrigeration.

## Q. What happens during inclement weather?

A. Rain and afternoon thunderstorms are common in Florida and may affect some camp and free time activities. Most program components are not affected by wet weather. A camp supervisor will determine if any activities need to be postponed or canceled, and we may reschedule an event if the camp schedule allows. Indoor activities are planned if thunderstorms prevail.

Tropical storms and hurricanes are possible threats in Florida during June - November. If the Weather Service forecasts a potential threat to the Tampa Bay area, we will advise parents to begin seeking alternative transportation for participants to leave early. Camp staff will prepare stranded campers to ride out the storm. Attending counselors will stay at the Outpost Classroom, an on-site secure facility that is rated to withstand hurricane forces and is fitted with an emergency power generator. Camp staff will accompany any stranded special needs campers to the University of South Florida evacuation shelter designated by the Emergency Operations Center as a “special needs” facility.

## Average temperatures and rainfall in Tampa, FL:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>High</b> (F°)	69	71	76	81	87	89	90	90	89	84	77	72
<b>Low</b> (F°)	50	51	56	60	67	72	74	74	72	65	57	52
<b>Precip.</b> (in)	2.0	3.1	3.0	1.2	3.1	5.5	6.6	7.6	6.0	2.0	1.8	2.2

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Q. How can participants be contacted during the program?

A. If your camper is flying; counselors encourage them to contact their parents upon arrival at the dormitory. Campers may use the dormitory phone or a personal cellular phone. To leave a message at Mzingo Lodge, call **(813) 987-5172**. Remember that Resident Camps are very active and you may not receive a call back from your camper until the evening. **In an emergency only**, call our Resident Camp Hotline number at (813) 987-5848 and leave a detailed message and phone number where you can be reached. A Resident Camp representative is automatically notified from this emergency hotline and will respond or forward the message to the participant.

Carrying cell phones or other electronic gear during a regular camp day or after LIGHTS OUT is not permitted because of disruption to programming during the day or to resting bunk neighbors at night. Camp team members will collect and store all cell phones upon arrival to monitor usage. Counselors typically distribute cell phones to campers during free time at the dorm each evening for calling home, family and friends, or if there is a family emergency.

## Q. Does Busch Gardens provide transportation throughout the program?

A. Busch Gardens provides transportation throughout the program in vans or trucks. All resident camp team members review safe driving practices before driving any vehicle for camp and practice skills in the vehicles provided for camp.

## Q. What are the pick-up and drop-off procedures for campers flying in and out of Tampa International Airport?

A. Make sure the *Travel Information Form* is completed 3 weeks prior to start of camp! For campers flying into and out of Tampa International Airport, camp staff will meet arriving campers at the tram gate in the Main Terminal. Camp staff will be wearing Busch Gardens Camp apparel (polo shirt or camp T-shirt, khaki shorts) and will be holding a Busch Gardens Camp sign for easy identification. At departure, camp counselors deliver all departing campers to the Security checkpoint at the appropriate tram gate in the Main Terminal, unless he/she is traveling as an Unaccompanied Minor. **Remember to send a credit card or cash to pay for any extra baggage fees.**

Busch Gardens strongly suggests that parents of younger campers or first time air travelers consider sending their campers as **Unaccompanied Minors**. This status assures that the airline provides an escort for the camper from the time they leave parents/guardians until our camp staff can pick them up from or deliver them into the hands of airline personnel. The airline staff delivers young travelers back into the hands of designated parents/guardians upon arrival at their destination.

While flying your child as an Unaccompanied Minor does allow the Camp team to better monitor a camper's arrival and departure, there is often an added fee associated with a camper traveling as such, and parents/guardians are responsible for prearranging and **prepaying all fees**.

# Frequently Asked Questions

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For campers traveling as Unaccompanied Minors, most airlines require identification information about the escorting Resident Camp staff. The Education Department can accommodate this requirement 48 hours prior to their arrival/departure time. Please call ahead no earlier than 48 hours at **(813) 987-5172** to request this information and a Resident Camp team member will return your call.

## **Q. What is the Busch Gardens Resident Camps refund policy?**

**A.** If written notice of cancellation is received more than SIX WEEKS prior to the session, 100% of the camp fee will be returned, if written notice of cancellation is received between FOUR (4) TO SIX (6) WEEKS prior to the session, 50% of the camp fee will be returned. If written notice of cancellation is received FOUR (4) WEEKS OR LESS prior to camp, the entire camp fee will be forfeit. Rebooking into an open session within the same calendar year is an option. If a participant leaves camp early, or is dismissed, no refund will be given.

## **Q. What photo opportunities will campers have?**

**A.** Campers will have the ability to practice their photo skills park wide as a park guest, and in a few behind the scenes areas. We suggest they bring a camera since cell phones are stored back at the dorm for safekeeping and to prevent any disruption of programming. There are certain ride and zoo back areas where cameras are prohibited and counselors will inform campers where they may or may not use cameras.

Busch Gardens provides campers with an individual photo with an animal and a group photo as part of the camping experience.

## **Additional Questions**

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For more information about Busch Gardens Resident Camps, please contact us at [education@buschgardens.com](mailto:education@buschgardens.com), or visit our website at [www.buschgardens.com/tampa](http://www.buschgardens.com/tampa).

If calling after hours, please leave a message and someone will return your call the next morning.

## **List of Useful Phone Numbers**

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Mzinga Lodge: (813) 987-5172

Resident Camp Supervisor: (813) 987-5145

Resident Assistant: (813) 579-8223

Emergency Hotline: (813) 987-5848