Senior Wild Science Camp Basics

Camp Date: Jun 29 & 30

Suited For: Rising 10th college freshmen

Camp Tuition: Tuition fees cover all expenses, food, lodging and supplies.

Fees* $449 for Zoo Society members, $499 for non-members.

Campers need to bring: A sleeping bag, bug spray, overnight toiletries, a change of clothes, a small backpack, a raincoat and a water bottle.

We provide tents and meals!

Camp Facts

Camp Size: Space is limited to 16 campers.

The Selection Process: Campers that meet eligibility requirements are admitted on a first come, first served basis.

Logistics: Campers check in and leave from the Valerie H. Schindler Wildlife Learning Center, 2663 Old Cox Road. All camping activities take place at the Center or inside the Zoo.

To Apply

Go to nczoo.com and click on Extraordinary Experiences or call Becca Sigafoos or Jayne Parker at the Zoo Society (336-879-7250).

* The estimated cost of goods and services for camp is $30. All or nearly all of the remaining tuition cost should be tax-deductible as a donation to the NC Zoo Society. Donation money will be used to support the Zoo’s ongoing wildlife conservation projects at the Zoo and in the wild.

Who Can Apply?

Students Who Care About Wildlife

Junior camp activities are structured to appeal to rising 9th to college freshmen who want to explore careers that provide opportunities to protect wild animals and the environment. Hands-on activities mimic actual field work undertaken by conservation scientists and offer a realistic overview of what it would be like to follow in the footsteps of conservation heroes like Jane Goodall or Dian Fossey.

Applicants Should …

Have a grade point average of B or higher in their academic courses

Be able to secure a recommendation from a science teacher or career counselor

All Campers learn the basics of studying wild animals in the wild and in the dark, too. Campers spend the night inside the Zoo, sleeping in tents beside the African Plains exhibit.

Everyone leaves with amazing memories and new friends.
The Only Camp of its Kind in the World!

- Hands-on experiences with wildlife and state-of-the-art conservation equipment
- Extensive interactions with NC Zoo Animal Division staff that work in Africa and North America to protect endangered species.

Camping in Africa
Campers sleep in tents next to the African Plains, surrounded by the authentic sights and sounds of an African campground.

Top Counselors
Zoo animal caretakers and education staff as well as university interns serve as our counselors.

Hands-on Activities
Limited to 16 campers to ensure that everyone has plenty of time to interact with staff and to experiment with technical equipment.

Amazing Memories
Campers leave with a T-shirt and ID badge and a set of new friends and amazing memories.

Camp Highlights
- Gain exclusive access to more than 500 acres of wild lands and wildlife living at the NC Zoo.
- Practice state-of-the-art techniques with Zoo staff, including field biologists with more than 20 years of collective experience studying gorillas, vultures, elephants, salamanders and more in the wilds of Africa and North America.
- Master key research techniques, including using GPS to survey free-ranging animals, applying radio telemetry to track wildlife and practicing proper techniques to collect and handle wild animals.
- Campers learn about night-vision and other technologies used to conduct research at night. And, they spend the night camping inside the NC Zoo, next to the African Plains and surrounded by the sounds of the wild. It’s like being in Africa without leaving the country.
- All campers will network with new friends who share your interests and experience the joys, and the challenges, of working with animals and of finding ways to protect the places where they still roam freely in the wild.