



Teachers: Please distribute this letter to each teacher/chaperone. Please help us ensure that all adults have reviewed and are comfortable with this information before arriving at the Phoenix Zoo.

Dear Night Camp Adult Guests,

For many children, experiencing a Night Camp at the Phoenix Zoo is a once in a lifetime experience that creates memories that last into adulthood. We hope you are excited to help us make this experience a great one. We strive to also make Night Camp memorable and enjoyable for YOU!

This letter provides you with some details about the upcoming Night Camp so you can prepare for the evening and have a clear understanding of our expectations for adult chaperones/participants.

What can I expect to happen at Night Camp?

- Your group will be staying at the Neely Events and Education Center. The Neely Center is an indoor, climate-controlled space with concrete flooring located near the front of the Zoo. Please note that the location of your camp is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Campers will carry their belongings to the camp sleeping site (this can be a short hike – pack light!)
- If your camp includes dinner, you'll enjoy your meal soon after the start of the camp.
- Night Camp includes a variety of activities. You will enjoy guided hikes around the Zoo, educational games and learning activities, and up-close encounters with animals. You will be walking, standing, and/or sitting (typically on the floor with the children) for most of the evening hours.
- Snack will be provided part-way through the evening. The camp program will end for bedtime between 10:15-10:45 p.m. Overnight camps have a 6:30 a.m. wake up call (6:00 a.m. for large camp groups) and breakfast is served ~7:00 a.m. After a bit more fun and learning, Night Camp ends at 9:00 a.m.
- All indoor/covered camp site sleeping locations have concrete floors or utility carpet. Wilderness Experience campers sleep in family size tents set up on decomposed granite or grass surfaces. We highly suggest that you pack a sleeping pad to ensure a comfy night of sleep.
- Restroom facilities are located near the camp sites (showers are not available).
- Expect enough time for a brief morning freshen up before packing your belongings and heading to breakfast.

What is expected of me as a Night Camp participant/chaperone?

- You will be assigned to a small group of children. We encourage all adults to be involved along with the children. The more you participate and model good/attentive behavior, the more the children will as well. Feel free to ask and answer questions throughout the camp. Our instructors are very knowledgeable and love to answer all types of questions.
- When Instructors ask the campers challenging questions please allow the children to think critically and discover answers themselves. We use inquiry-based learning during Night Camp and hope you will help encourage this with additional conversation – ask campers to make observations and talk to you about what they discover and learn.
- Please assist the instructors in the management of your group. Typically there are more chaperones than instructors in groups and your assistance is always welcome. Management of campers by proximity and other minimally disruptive techniques are greatly appreciated!
- Learn the name of each student in your group. Make sure students in your group know your name.
- Make sure your group stays in close proximity at all times.

Phoenix Zoo/Night Camp Rules and Other Helpful Information

- Smoking is prohibited on Zoo grounds and in surrounding areas of Papago Park according to City of Phoenix law. Guests will not be permitted to leave Zoo grounds to smoke during the duration of the Night Camp program.
- Please remember that no outside food or beverages (other than water) are allowed to be brought to Night Camp. Food brought to the campsites attracts unwanted critters to your sleeping space. Alcohol is prohibited at Night Camp.
- Outlets for cell phone chargers will not be provided for Wilderness Experience camps and are not guaranteed to be available in other campsite locations.
- Please review the complete list of what to bring and what not to bring to Night Camp.

Thank you in advance for your enthusiasm and support during Night Camp. We look forward to meeting you and having a WILD night at the Phoenix Zoo.

Sincerely, **The Night Camp Team**