

# HENRY VILAS



## ZOO CAMP INFO

Come spend a week at our inquiry-focused Summer Zoo Camp! Campers enjoy special animal experiences and behind-the-scenes opportunities while facing scientific challenges that put the campers in the shoes of keepers, vets, or zoo administrators and motivate campers to seek the information to solve real-life problems. Campers leave Zoo Camp with a greater awareness for the individual animals at the zoo and how to help animals in the wild, all while building their science skills and making new friends.

## LOTTERY REGISTRATION INFO

The lottery registration period opens 8 am on January 16th, and closes at 12 noon on January 30th. You choose which weeks to enter the lottery, we randomly select campers for each camp week, and will notify you by February 6th. Those not selected will remain on the waiting list, and will be contacted if an additional spot opens up.

Kinderfari camp registration is not by lottery, and will open at 8 am on February 9th.

## AGE GROUPS

Kinderfari - 4 and 5 years old

Explorers - 6 and 7 years old

Scouts - 8 to 10 years old

Jr. Zookeepers - 11 to 13 years old

## CAMP HOURS

Drop off: 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Camp Activities: 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Kinderfari 1/2 day: 8:30-11:15 a.m.

Pick Up: 4:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Kinderfari Pick Up: 11:15-11:30 a.m.

## PRICING

Kinderfari: \$215

Explorers, Scouts, Jr. Zookeepers: \$370

*\*Henry Vilas Zoo Members at the Family level or above receive a 10% discount*

## QUESTIONS?

Email [education@henryvilaszoo.gov](mailto:education@henryvilaszoo.gov)

## REGISTER

<http://henryvilaszoo.gov/summer-zoo-camp/>



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## CAMP

# 2026 SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Week	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
<b>Week 1</b> June 15-18 *No Camp Friday	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Have to Have a Habitat	Explorers ages 6-7 Where the Wild Things Live	Scouts Ages 8-10 Animal Rescuers
<b>Week 2</b> June 22-26	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Eco Engineers	Scouts Ages 8-10 Zoo Puzzlers	Jr Zookeepers Ages 11-13 Animal Behavior
<b>Week 3</b> June 29-July 2 *No Camp Friday	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Rock-a-bye Critters	Explorers Ages 6-7 Let's Work Together	Scouts Ages 8-10 Keeper Camp
<b>Week 4</b> July 6-10	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Animal Tales	Explorers Ages 6-7 Wildlife Warriors	Scouts Ages 8-10 You are the Scientist
<b>Week 5</b> July 13-17	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Feathers Fur Shells & Scales	Explorers Ages 6-7 Jr Zoo Vets	Scouts Ages 8-10 Creature Connections
<b>Week 6</b> July 20-24	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Have to Have a Habitat	Explorers Ages 6-7 Myths and Wonders	Jr Zookeepers Ages 11-13 Enrichment Engineers
<b>Week 7</b> July 27-31	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Eco-Engineers	Explorers Ages 6-7 Where the Wild Things Live	Scouts Ages 8-10 Animal Rescuers
<b>Week 8</b> August 3-7	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Rock-a-bye Critters	Explorers Ages 6-7 Wildlife Warriors	Scouts Ages 8-10 Keeper Camp
<b>Week 9</b> August 10-14	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Animal Tales	Explorers Ages 6-7 Jr Zoo Vets	Scouts Ages 8-10 You are the Scientist
<b>Week 10</b> August 17-21	Kinderfari Ages 4-5 Feather Fur Shells & Scales	Scouts Ages 8-10 Zoo Puzzlers	Jr Zookeepers Ages 11-13 STEM
<b>Week 11</b> August 24-28	No Kinderfari	Explorers Ages 6-7 Myths and Wonders	Scouts Ages 8-10 Creature Connections

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## 2026 CAMP DESCRIPTIONS

### KINDERFARI AGES 4-5

#### Have to Have a Habitat

What makes home perfect for an animal? Join us this week as we explore everything animals need for a healthy habitat. We'll go behind the scenes to learn about habitats at the zoo, and you'll have the chance to design a home for one of your stuffed pals!

Wk 1\*: June 15-18 \*No Camp on Fri

Wk 6: July 20-24

Wk 11: Aug 24-28

#### Eco Engineers

Discover how animals teach us to build sturdy nests that withstand the wind and cozy dens that keep us warm and dry all year round. Come meet some amazing animals and create your own animal-inspired inventions.

Wk 2: June 22-26

Wk 7: July 27-31

#### Rock-a-bye Critters

In this camp we're exploring the world of animal babies - how they grow, and how their parents care for them. We'll go behind the scenes to learn how zookeepers take care of babies here at the zoo as well as have fun playing pretend taking care of baby animals.

Wk 3\*: June 29-July 2 \*No Camp on Fri

Wk 8: Aug 3-7

#### Animal Tales

Do you ever wonder how the rhino got his skin, the tiger got his stripes, or how the camel got his hump? Join us for a week of exciting animal tales, and meet some of the colorful characters along the way!

Wk 4: July 6-10

Wk 9: Aug 10-14

#### Feathers Fur Shells & Scales

There are so many different animals here at the zoo. In this camp we'll learn all about what makes each group of animals unique! We will get to meet feathery, furry, shelled and scaly friends and explore through play.

Wk 5: July 13-17

Wk 10: Aug 17-21



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## EXPLORERS- AGES 6-7

### Where the Wild Things Live

From the frozen tundra to the scorching desert, and from volcanic deep sea vents to mountain-peaks, animals thrive in many different habitats. In this camp, we'll explore what animals need to survive in their environments and meet some animal friends who can be found in truly extreme places.

Wk 1: June 15-18 \*No Camp on Fri

Wk 7: July 27-31

### Let's Work Together

Many animals work together to help each other survive, and we can learn a lot from their teamwork. In this camp, we'll observe animal teamwork, and participate in some fun team building of our own. Come join the team for a fun camp week!

Wk 3: June 29-July 2 \*No Camp on Fri

### Wildlife Warriors

Wildlife is incredibly important and worth protecting. During this camp, we will meet some endangered animals who need our help, and brainstorm ways to use our voices to help protect wild animals and the places they call home.

Wk 4: July 6-10

Wk 8: Aug 3-7

### Jr. Zoo Vets

How do you vaccinate a tiger? Or how do you give medicine to an orangutan? Our vets and keepers need to consider a lot of different factors to keep our animals healthy, from the food they eat to the type of shelter they have, to the vitamins they receive. This week, we'll help our keepers and vets problem-solve some animal health situations that may come up at the zoo.

Wk 5: July 13-17

Wk 9: Aug 10-14

### Myths and Wonders

Unicorns, pixies, and dragons might not be as mythical as you think. Join us for a magical adventure as we'll explore the world of mythical creatures and meet some of their real life counterparts.

Wk 6: July 20-24

Wk 11: Aug 24-28



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## SCOUTS- AGES 8-10

### Animal Rescuers

You can make a difference! Discover how you can help animals both in your own backyard and around the world. Get up close and personal with some of the amazing animals that Henry Vilas Zoo is working to protect, and use your creativity to help save them!

Wk 1\*: June 15-18 \*No Camp on Fri

Wk 7: July 27-31

### Zoo Puzzlers

Training animals with positive reinforcement requires a lot of problem-solving skills and creative thinking. This week we'll dive into some zoo-themed puzzles and problems, carry out investigations, and then you'll design your own puzzle solutions and animal-inspired creations to help out our zookeepers!

Wk 2: June 22-26

Wk 10: Aug 17-21

### You Are the Scientist

A lot of science happens at the zoo, from studying animal behavior to looking under a microscope. We are going to become scientists this week to help our animals here at the zoo and in our own backyard. Join an international habitat mapping project by carefully observing the zoo animals and Wisconsin's wild animals to learn how you can make the world a better place.

### Keeper Camp

Have you ever dreamed of becoming a zookeeper? Now is your chance! Join us this week where we'll dive into all aspects of zookeeping. From preparing nutritious diets, to mastering training techniques, to even getting down and dirty, this camp will show you what it's like to be a top-notch zookeeper.

Wk 3: June 29-July 2 \*No Camp on Fri

Wk 8: Aug 3-7

### You Are The Scientist

A lot of science happens at the zoo, from tracking animal behavior to examining samples under a microscope. Join us as we transform into budding scientists this week to help our animals here at the zoo and in our own backyards. Participate in an international habitat mapping project by carefully observing the zoo animals and Wisconsin's wildlife. Learn how your actions can make the world a better place.

Wk 4: July 6-10

Wk 9: Aug 10-14

### Creature Connections

Animals interact with each other in fascinating ways, and at this camp, we'll learn all about it. How can a little bird help a giant rhino, and can a fungus truly control an ant's mind? Uncover these mysteries and more as we meet animals, venture behind the scenes, and explore the intricate connections between different species.

Wk 5: July 13-17

Wk 11: Aug 24-28



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## JR. ZOOKEEPERS- AGES 11-13

### Animal Behavior

From instinct to action, behavior is everything an animal does. This week we're diving into the science of Ethology: the study of animal behavior. Join us to discover the hidden stories that understanding behavior reveals about the lives of our amazing animals.

Wk 2: June 22-26

### Enrichment Engineers

Become an animal enrichment engineer with us! Enrichment, meaning novel or unique items for animals to interact with, is an important part of providing the best care for our zoo animals. It keeps them active, allows them to display natural behaviors, and enhances their well-being. We're always on the lookout for new enrichment ideas, and we need your creativity! Put your engineering skills to the test to design new items to enrich the lives of our animals.

Wk 6: July 20-24

### STEM

Join us for an exciting week at the zoo filled with all things STEM! Discover science, technology, engineering, art and math while learning about our awesome animals. Conduct your own inquiry projects and uncover the lessons animals can teach us!

Wk 10: Aug 17-21

