



OAKLAND ZOO

SUMMER ZOO CAMP THEMES

JUN 1 - AUG 7, 2026



THEME CALENDAR

Campers may attend up to two sessions, **without** repeating the same theme. The two sessions can be back-to-back or spaced out, and campers may do either theme first.



SESSION THEME

1	A
2	B
3	A
4	B

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SESSION THEME

*	*
5	A
6	B
7	A
8	B

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

SESSION THEME

9	A
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August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

*No camp week
of July 4

THEME A



Producers, Consumers, Decomposers, Oh My!

What's on the menu? Depends on who you ask! Your camper will learn the difference between carnivores, herbivores, and omnivores.

Session 1: June 1-5

Session 3: June 15-19

Session 5: July 6-10

Session 7: July 20-24

Session 9: August 3-7



Busy Beasts meeting an African millipede
at their animal close-up experience

BUSY BEASTS KINDERGARTEN



Busy Beasts looking for well-
camouflaged frogs in the lily pond



THEME B

Blending In or Standing Out?

Some animals have stripes, others have spots, and some have neither! Your camper will discover why animals may or may not have patterns to help with survival in the wild!

Session 2: June 8-12

Session 4: June 22-26

Session 6: July 13-17

Session 8: July 27-31

THEME A



Home Is Where the Habitat Is

Where in the world do you find this animal? This week will be focused on all things habitat: where they are, what makes them special, and who lives within them.

Session 1: June 1-5

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Furry Friends exploring the turtle habitat in the Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Room

FURRY FRIENDS

1ST GRADE



Furry Friends posing as meerkats



THEME B

"Caw"-"Moo"-"Neigh"-cation

Ever wonder how other species communicate? Animals talk by vocalizing, moving, smelling, touching, and more! Your camper will spend the week discovering how different species chat with each other.

Session 2: June 8-12

Session 4: June 22-26

Session 6: July 13-17

Session 8: July 27-31

THEME A

Construction by Critters



When a habitat changes, an animal must either figure it out, or get out! Learn about habitat changes and how an animal's physical or behavioral adaptations help them survive in an ever-changing environment.

Session 1: June 1-5

Session 3: June 15-19

Session 5: July 6-10

Session 7: July 20-24

Session 9: August 3-7



Animal Adventurers posing with a statue of an animal known for altering their habitat - the American Bison

ANIMAL ADVENTURERS

2ND & 3RD GRADE



A group of Animal Adventurers exploring the Frog Playground



THEME B

Born This Way

Animals can grow and develop in a variety of ways. Learn about different life cycles of animals and how some animals look very different at the beginning of their lives from the end.

Session 2: June 8-12

Session 4: June 22-26

Session 6: July 13-17

Session 8: July 27-31

THEME A

Humans Are a Whole Different Animal



While humans are in fact animals, our behavior has a major affect on wildlife around the world. This week, campers will learn about ways we impact the natural environment.

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Session 9: August 3-7



Eco Explorers riding the gondola up to the California Trail

ECO EXPLORERS

4TH & 5TH GRADE



THEME B

Stop, Drop, and Roll

This isn't your average fire drill! This week, campers learn how animals in the wild adapt and react to natural and unnatural disasters.

Session 2: June 8-12

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Session 6: July 13-17

Session 8: July 27-31



Eco Explorers learning about the American Bison with a zookeeper at their behind-the-scenes activity

THEME A

Day in the Life: Zoo Crew



Does your camper aspire to work at the Zoo one day? This week at ZooCamp, your middle schooler will interact with members of different departments around Oakland Zoo to see what it takes to become a part of the team.

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Conservation Crew campers with their diorama of a zoo habitat

CONSERVATION CREW

6TH - 8TH GRADE



A Conservation Crew camper taking notes on goat behaviors at the Petting Yard



THEME B

Wildlife Conservation Warriors

What native wildlife lives on and around our property? In addition to getting to know the Zoo's animals, campers will explore how wildlife biologists research and conserve wildlife in the field.

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Session 8: July 27-31