Important Information for you and your camper!

Questions? Contact Andy Pierce, Education Coordinator, at andy.pierce@kcstarlight.com or 816-997-1134.

Check-in in the morning and pick-up in the afternoon for all campers will take place inside Gate 2 on the west side of the Starlight Theatre complex. This is the lot on the opposite side of the theatre from the Zoo. If you enter Swope Park from Meyer Boulevard and Swope Parkway, the lot is the first paved lot on the right side of the street as you approach Starlight Theatre. A security guard stand is located at the entrance to Lot A.

Instructions regarding camp procedures, as well as important additional camp information, will be provided in an instructional video that will be emailed to all parents/guardians the week prior to camp.

Check-in/First Day of Camp:

- Teaching Assistants will be waiting inside Gate 2 to greet you from 8:30 a.m. until 8:50 a.m. Park in Lot A upon arrival. Check-in will take place in the shaded area just inside Gate 2 where you will see camp staff wearing bright yellow camp t-shirts. Please arrive no later than 8:50 a.m.
- Park your car and please walk your child to his/her Teaching Assistant. Prior to camp, your child will be assigned to a group in which he/she will be for the duration. You will be advised of your child’s group name prior to the start of camp. When you arrive at Starlight on the first day, look for the sign that has your child’s group name, and check in near that sign with your child’s Teaching Assistant.
- During check-in, you will sign in your child, meet his/her assigned Teaching Assistant, learn about other camp staff, and receive your child’s t-shirt(s) and name-tag.
- You must check in your child with his/her Teaching Assistant (by providing a signature), and your child must be wearing his/her camp t-shirt each day. (On the first day of camp, you may either walk back to your car to have your child change into his/her t-shirt, or a restroom facility is located nearby.)
- Each camp group will have their own giant, colorful parachute where the group will be seated together during check-in. Campers will be instructed that they cannot get up off the parachute once they have been checked in (until it is time to begin the camp day).

Check-in/Remainder of Camp:

- On subsequent camp days, you will park in Lot A of Starlight Theatre, walk your child to his/her assigned group, and sign in your child with his/her assigned Teaching Assistant.
- On days where weather prevents an outside check-in or pick-up, campers will relocate to inside the Education Pavilion. In these instances, you will park in Lot A as usual, then enter Gate 2 and progress down the path to the Education Pavilion.
Late Arrivals:

- The camp day will begin promptly at 8:50 a.m. If your child arrives after this time, you will need to park in Lot A and bring him/her through Gate 2, down the path, and into the Education Pavilion via the purple door. For the safety of our campers, this door will be locked during the camp day, so you will need to knock, and a camp staff member will greet you. At that point, we will assess where your child’s group is located, either in the building at Starlight Theatre or at the Kansas City Zoo, so that we may escort him/her to the proper location.

Emergencies:

- If there is an emergency and you need to make contact with or remove your child from camp during the camp day, please call 816-997-1139 to reach a member of Starlight Theatre’s Education team.

What to Wear:

- Each camper will be provided with a camp t-shirt to identify him/her as a participant. Your child must wear his/her t-shirt to camp every day. Additional t-shirts were purchased at the time of initial online registration. If additional t-shirts were not ordered at that time, and you would like to see if there are any left for purchase, please advise Andy Pierce at andy.pierce@kcstarlight.com. Once t-shirts are distributed on the first day of camp, we would be happy to arrange for you to purchase additional t-shirts should they remain available.
- Participants are required to wear comfortable shorts/pants or dresses/skirts designed for play, as well as socks and athletic shoes or sandals. We do not allow flip flops or shoes with wheels. If rain is in the forecast, you may send your child with his/her raincoat. Please do not send an umbrella as they are not allowed on Zoo grounds.
- Participants will need to wear sunscreen each day. Some of the campers will begin their day at the Kansas City Zoo and some at Starlight Theatre. You will be advised where your camper begins his/her camp day when official camp groupings are distributed. Campers who start at the Zoo should arrive with sunscreen already applied (although we will double check to make sure that all campers have sunscreen applied prior to departure for the Zoo). Campers who will go to the Zoo in the afternoon will need to bring a bottle of sunscreen (spray bottles only, please) on the first day of camp to be kept at camp for the duration. Please write your child’s name on the bottle. After lunch each day, these campers will apply sunscreen before going to the Zoo. As a reminder, the ‘Consent and Release of Liability’ found on the camp registration, which is required for all campers to participate, included the following verbiage:

“By electronically signing this form, I hereby give permission for Teachers and Teaching Assistants who are working as part of the Act Like An Animal Camp to assist my child in applying/re-applying sunscreen should my child be unable to apply/re-apply it him/herself. I understand that the spray-on form of sunscreen will be used for the camp.”

While we find that most campers are able to apply the sunscreen themselves, there may be the occasional special circumstance during which our camp staff will need to assist.

What to Bring/What Not to Bring:

- Your child will need to bring a water bottle with his/her name written on it, which will remain with your child and be refilled during the course of the day. Campers will bring the water bottles home at night for washing, but they should be brought back each day.
• Please do not send your child with money, valuables, cell phones, electronic devices, pocket gaming devices, or backpacks. Participants are absolutely responsible for any items that they bring to camp. The campers move around a lot during the day, so it is in everyone’s best interest that personal items remain at home.
• Any extra items of clothing (hats, raincoats, etc.), or personal items brought to camp will be the full responsibility of the camper to carry and keep track of throughout the day.

Lunch/Snack:
• Please send your child with a sack lunch or cloth lunch bag with his/her name written on it. Please do not send a hard lunch box. Lunches will be refrigerated throughout the morning. Campers will not have access to a microwave.
• Please do not send lunch money with your child. Campers will not have an opportunity to purchase food.
• In the morning and afternoon, we will have a designated snack time during which we will provide the campers with small snacks and water. It is very important that you listed any allergies/food restrictions for your child at the time of registration. If there is anything that you forgot to mention, please advise Andy Pierce at andy.pierce@kcstarlight.com. Please note that we cannot accommodate nut allergies in which the child cannot be in the physical presence of nuts because of animal diets at the Zoo.

End of Day Pick-up:
• Prior to the start of camp, you will be emailed a unique code for your camper(s). This code must be given when picking up a camper. You will need to send the code to any individual with permission to pick up your camper(s).
• Please note that for your child’s safety, we cannot release a child to a person who does not have this camper-specific code. If a person attempting to pick up your child does not have the code, we will phone you for verification.
• To help facilitate an efficient pick-up process, whoever is picking up your child should inform the camper’s Teaching Assistant of his/her name, your child’s name, and the code (ex: “John Smith for Avery Smith, code 365”) each day at pick-up.
• End of day pick-up for all campers will take place inside Gate 2 of Starlight Theatre (at the exact same location as check-in). Camp staff will bring the participants to this location at 3:30 p.m., and not prior.
• As at check-in, each camp group will have the same giant, colorful parachute where the group will be seated together awaiting pick-up. Campers will be instructed that they cannot get up off of the parachute until they been signed out by the person picking them up.
• Please arrive on time. If you arrive after 3:50 p.m., your child will be taken to After Care at the Kansas City Zoo (see below), and you will be charged $15.00.

After Care at the Kansas City Zoo:
• After Care takes place at the Kansas City Zoo for registered camp participants from 3:50 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for $15.00 per day. After Care was purchased at the time of the initial online registration. After Care participants will be escorted to the Zoo at 3:50 p.m. where they can then be picked up in the Deramus Education Pavilion, the round building to the right of the Zoo entrance, anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
• When picking up a camper from After Care, previously approved adults should bring a form of identification to verify their identity with Zoo staff in order for a camper to be released.
**Final Camp Performance:**

Your child’s camp experience will include presenting a performance for family and friends that will take place at 3:00 p.m. on the final Thursday of the camp session. This is a fun and energetic performance designed to show off what campers have learned and rehearsed throughout the camp. Closer to the performance date, we will advise all camp families of location and arrival information for this performance.

**Final Camp Day Pizza Party:**

As part of our closing day together, campers will be treated to a pizza lunch on the final Friday of the camp session. Campers will not need to bring a lunch with them that day unless food restrictions or allergies prevent them from eating pizza.

**Behavior Expectations:**

To ensure a fun and productive atmosphere and a safe environment, our Education staff has developed a fair and effective behavior management strategy.

Please take the time to go over the following expectations with your child prior to the first day of camp. Camp staff will also discuss these expectations with the campers on the first day.

- I will be kind to all people and animals.
- I will listen to my teachers.
- I will follow directions.
- I will participate in all camp activities.
- I will remember “KAHFOOTY!” (Keep All Hands, Feet, and Other Objects to Yourself!)

**Behavior Management:**

At the end of each camp day, those students who chose to follow the behavior expectations and did not earn a “Time Out” at any point during the day may select a treasure from the camp “Treasure Box” before going home. Stickers will also be given throughout the day as camp staff members catch the campers being good!

The consequences for inappropriate behavior will be administered in the following sequence*:

1. First verbal warning
2. Second verbal warning
3. “Time Out” – five minutes away from the current activity and discussion about the child’s behavior with the camp staff member overseeing the time out**
4. Director of Education calls parent/guardian and child speaks with parent/guardian about his/her behavior**
5. Director of Education calls parent/guardian and child must go home**

* If a child’s actions are severe enough, steps may be skipped within this sequence.
**Consequences #3, #4 and #5 will be recorded in a written report (available upon request).