

# Animaniacs Summer Camp

## - FAQ's

### **What is Animaniacs Camp?**

Animaniacs Camp is a place where children connect with new friends and animals. Age appropriate games, crafts, activities as well as visits from special animal guests encourage children to develop skills including compassion and empathy for all living things. We do this by encouraging your child to have fun and explore through hands-on learning opportunities, some of which involve animals.

Our summer camp is held primarily outdoors, in all temperatures.

### **How old does my child have to be?**

We offer day camps for children aged 6 – 12.

### **Will my 12 year old be in a group with a 6 year old?**

Not always – children are split into different groups by their age, and the curriculum differs depending on your child's age. All age groups will be together during presentations, bussing to field trips, and breaks.

\*If you would like two campers to be in the same group, it MUST be requested prior to the camp start date by contacting the Community Programs Manager. Once camp begins, group changes will not be made.

### **How much is one week of camp?**

Our camp rates are as follow:

\$240/week for 5 day weeks

\$195/week for 4 day weeks (There will be no camp on Canada day and Civic Holiday)

#### Refund Guidelines:

15 days or more prior to camp start – 10% program fee deducted, per participant.

14 days' notice or less for refund – 50%

Once program has begun – no refund

Any switch from one week of camp to another may be subject to an administration fee

### **Where is the camp located?**

Animaniacs Summer Camp is located at 250 Riverbend Dr, in Kitchener, ON. This camp is entirely outdoors in our park-like setting (we do have an event tent for shelter).

### **What are the hours of camp? Do you have before and after care?**

Camp begins at 9:00am and ends at 4:00pm. Early drop off begins at 8:30am, and is free of charge. Late pickup is from 4:00pm until 5:00pm. Any camper picked up between 5:00pm and 5:15pm will be charged an "extended care" fee of \$10 cash. This fee is due at the time of service and should be given directly to the Camp staff.

### **How can I prepare for camp?**

If your child does not have closed toed shoes, they must be purchased prior to camp. Send your child with one or two water bottles (frozen is a good idea) and a hat, and teach your children to apply sunscreen/bug spray. Go over the rules of camp (found in parent handbook), and make sure that they understand the behaviour that is expected at camp.

### **What will my child do all day?**

A typical camp day begins with sign in, and the children break into their groups for a day of fun. Morning normally involves a tour of the centre, physical activity, an animal visit, time for playing games, educational activities as well as a mid-morning snack break. Afternoons are similar in structure with a craft, educational activities, a second snack break, and time for fun and games. Throughout the week, campers can also look forward to presentations by other organizations and the opportunity to engage in special activities with animals. Due to the nature of the Kitchener Waterloo operations and the animals we receive, availability of appropriate animals for campers to visit varies from day to day. We strive to provide every child with a positive experience around a variety of animals, however, stress on our shelter animals is also closely monitored by our staff and volunteers.

### **What is an animal interaction? Does my child get to pet, hold or feed the animals?**

Most children who come to KWHS Summer Camp are very good with animals and passionate about caring for them. We completely understand your child's desire to hold an animal or to interact with a specific animal in the shelter. Unfortunately, not all animals have a temperament that makes them a good candidate for camp. Also, asking an animal to be held by 45 campers is not a fair demand to make of many of the animals in our care. Please keep in mind when considering animal interactions that we must carefully balance the experience of our campers with the best interests of our animals. We select animal interactions that will provide a quality experience for our campers while keeping our animal's well-being in mind.

### **How many animals will my child meet?**

We aim to have all children at camp meet a minimum of 2 animals each day and on some days of camp, children have met more than 5 animals. These figures may change from day to day due to fluctuations in centre population, animal stress levels or presentations.

### **How many weeks can my child attend?**

There is no restriction on how many weeks any child may attend and enjoy camp. While we attempt to change curriculum from week to week, children returning for several weeks should be prepared to repeat some activities, crafts and presentations.

### **My child has special needs – can you accommodate?**

Our camp is able to accommodate many different needs. That being said, for safety reasons, due to the location of the camp (outdoors, close to main roads and the Grand River), as well staff ratios and the needs of our animals, there are certain behaviours and needs which we cannot accommodate. Please contact the Community Programs Manger before registering to make sure that our camp is the right fit for your child.

### **My child is frightened of certain animals, will those be at camp?**

It is possible that a child may be frightened or uncomfortable around a certain animal. We recognize that not all children are comfortable around every animal, and at no point will a camper be forced to interact with an animal. The Humane Society team addresses fear of animals by providing education about that animal species. In many cases, children have overcome fears at our camp, even petting or holding the animals they were once frightened of!

### **Is Animaniacs a nut-free camp?**

Campers are asked not to bring nut products to camp, however, our staff is not in a position to inspect lunches or take food away from our campers if a parent does pack nut products. We also cannot guarantee that the food used at the Humane Society for our animals is nut free.

### **Will my child come home begging for a pet?**

It is possible that your child will meet an animal at camp that they would like as a pet, however, we do not push pet ownership on anyone, nor do we ask campers to adopt. The Humane Society promotes responsible pet ownership and our program focuses not just on exposing children to animals, but also showing them how much work caring for an animal can be.

**If you have any questions regarding camp, please feel free to contact our Community Programs Manager, Kathleen McCaughey, at [kathleen.mccaughey@awasco.ca](mailto:kathleen.mccaughey@awasco.ca), or by calling 519-745-5615 ext 233**