

# Junior Zoo Keeper Experience (7-11 years)



Find out **exactly** what it's like to look after our zoo animals with a Wildwood *Junior Zoo Keeper* experience. For children aged 7-11 years, these are half-day courses that introduce you to the world of the zoo keeper and show you how to make sure that animals are well fed, interested and cared for.

Each junior zoo keeper experience usually caters for five children together and costs £50 each (paid in advance with booking form).

## What you get:

- The opportunity to discover what it is really like to be an animal keeper at Britain's 'best British wildlife park' (BBC); this workshop is run by Wildwood's education team, who are DBS checked.
- Gift voucher if given as a gift to the junior zookeeper
- Park admission for the junior zoo keeper only
- Wildwood Junior Zoo Keeper T-shirt and workbook to complete
- Certificate to commemorate the day



## Junior Zoo Keeper Experiences

### 2019 Dates

Wednesday 10th April	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 17th April	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 29th May	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 24th July	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 31st July	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 7th August	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 14th August	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 21st August	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 28th August	10am - 12noon
Wednesday 23rd October	10am - 12noon

## What Junior Zoo Keepers will do:

They will learn some of the following zoo keeper skills:

- Recognise some of the risks and dangers of working with animals and how to limit them.
- How to prepare and distribute an animal feed. Including using tools such as knives to cut, slice and chop animal food (this may include dead animals such as fish/day-old chicks/mice).
- How to make food interesting for animals (enrichment).
- How to approach animals with respect.
- How to clean out an animal enclosure or food stall.
- See behind the scenes at Wildwood – the keeper kitchens, stores and service yard where all the hard work of looking after our animals is based.

*These are just some of the activities that may be included in the workshop, but, as no zoo keeper's day is typical, then different activities may be substituted according to circumstances.*

## Terms and Conditions:

- Junior Zoo Keepers must be between 7 and 11 years old.
- They must have an up to date tetanus vaccination.
- If they have special needs, they may be accompanied by a carer free of charge, if required.
- Family members and friends pay normal park admission (or membership fees) if they wish to visit Wildwood; they may not accompany Junior Zoo Keepers behind the scenes or into enclosures. We will let them know what we will be doing if they wish to watch and take photographs from the public paths.
- Junior Zoo Keepers should wear appropriate old clothes for a day in the woods.
- Wear appropriate footwear – preferably wellies as the site can be very muddy after heavy rain..
- Come prepared for the weather; we work outdoors through all weathers, including rain.

## Health and Safety

While we will take all steps to ensure your child's safety, it is important that we make you aware of the realities of working with animals. All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms which can be passed to humans and cause sickness, as well as the more obvious risks of bites, scratches, crushing and other injuries. Working in enclosures and the woodland also carries risk of injury and disease and there may be other park operations which present a hazard. It is essential that those participating in the *Junior Zoo Keeper* workshops follow closely the instructions they are given for the health and safety of themselves and others.

Anyone working at Wildwood will also come into contact with hay, straw, sawdust, nuts, fungi, pollen, animals of all kinds, and tools during their activities. If your child has any medical/behavioural conditions, special needs and/or medication that we should be aware of which might be affected by these (e.g. hay fever, allergies, anaphylaxis, asthma, epilepsy, etc.), please put this in writing, so that we can ensure your child's experience is as enjoyable and inclusive as possible.

## Please remind your Junior Zoo Keeper on the day to:

### 1. Dress Sensibly

- Tie back long hair.
- Nothing long and dangly including jewellery other than ear studs, scarves, toggles or anything else which might tempt an animal to pull them or might get caught up on branches/enclosures.
- No nail polish; remember, long nails are likely to break. No perfume or aftershave. No high-heeled shoes, ballet pumps or other inappropriate footwear.
- If they are inappropriately dressed on arrival, this is a health and safety matter and could affect the continuation of their workshop

### 2. Follow Instructions

- Follow their supervisor's instructions at all times.
- Avoid putting their fingers to their mouth, nose or eyes unless they have washed them first.
- Avoid eating any of the food intended for animals.
- Stay with their supervisor; they must not wander off.
- Report any accident or injury to their supervisor immediately for appropriate action and first aid.
- If they become separated, make their way to the shop and ask staff to radio their tutor.

### 3. Respect Animals

- Our animals are wild species and do not know your child, so will not respond like family pets – we expect your child to treat them with respect and give them space.
- There is no guaranteed animal contact during their experience.
- They should not attempt to touch, stroke or hug animals unless explicitly told by their supervisor.
- They should not put their face close to animals or try to kiss them.

### 4. Inappropriate Behaviour

- If they are unable to agree to follow these conditions or behave inappropriately during their workshop, unfortunately their place will be terminated immediately. In such circumstances, there will be no refund.

