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## Camps embrace children's wild side *Zoo teaches wildlife conservation*



**SAN JOSE, CA** - Zoos and aquariums play an important role in conservation education, and Happy Hollow Park & Zoo (HHPZ) encourages children of all ages to embrace their wild side at upcoming [spring and summer camps](#). Registration opens February 24, and the camps are uniquely themed to provide interactive learning experiences. Spring camp runs from April 2 to April 6, 2018 and campers will be learning about rainforest animals. Summer camps begin June 11 and run through August 17, 2018. Campers will enjoy a variety of age-appropriate themes that connect them to wildlife, while learning about the Zoo animals, and what staff does to keep them in good health.

The camps have become more popular over the years, making registration fill up fast, says Arlinda Duffy, a Zoo Educator at HHPZ. She notes the camps are not only fun, but provide important educational experiences. "Our campers really enjoy participating in hands-on science activities, Zoo tours, and getting opportunities to meet our animals up close," Duffy says. HHPZ camps are open to children ages 4 to 13, where children can learn about many topics, including zoo keeping, wildlife conservation, veterinary medicine, and animal behavior.

Studies have shown that facilities accredited by the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#) (AZA), including zoos like Happy Hollow, enhance the public's understanding of wildlife and the need to conserve the places animals live. By providing experiences that give people a stronger connection to nature, visitors are given opportunities to evaluate their role in environmental problems, conservation action, and become part of the solution as a result of their visit.

Happy Hollow Members receive a discount on camp with their membership number and coupon code:  
**SUMMER**

Please visit <http://bit.ly/hhpzcamps> to learn more.

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[Happy Hollow Park & Zoo](#) (HHPZ) is a division of the City of San José [Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services](#). Supported by the [Happy Hollow Foundation](#), the mission of HHPZ is connecting people to nature through play. HHPZ provides a variety of outdoor play experiences for all ages, including an AZA accredited zoo; rides and nature-themed amusement; celebrations, in-house, and private events; as well a robust animal education and wildlife conservation program.