



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q. Will my child spend most of the day working directly with animals?**

A. Everything we do at camp is aimed at teaching children about animal care, handling, and welfare. Because we are an open-door animal shelter, we care for all animals including some that may be sick, injured, or have behavior issues. Our priorities are to provide our campers with a safe and fun experience and also to prevent our resident animals from any undue stress.

Campers will meet some shelter residents, a gentle bunny, curious gerbil, kid-loving dog or a litter of kittens. The animals are a part of everyday camp, along with crafts, games and indoor/outdoor activities. However, our ability to have kids interact with animals depends upon animals who are in residence during the camp session.

### **Q. May my child bring their own animal to camp?**

A. In the interest of keeping both the children and animals safe, we ask you to leave your pets at home.

### **Q. Do you have before-child care or after-child care for campers?**

A. We do not have child care, either before or after each session. We appreciate dropping off your campers no earlier than 15 minutes prior to camp and picking up your camper promptly when the session closes.

### **Q. What should my child wear or bring?**

A. Campers are encouraged to wear comfortable play clothes. Jeans or long pants are ideal to protect their legs. Sneakers or other closed-toed shoes are required (NO flip flops or sandals). Campers will be allowed to leave belongings in a dedicated area in our community room, including jackets or backpacks, however, we will not be responsible for personal belongings so please do not bring valuables. Campers may want to bring or wear sunscreen for any outside activities. In winter months, if the weather is reasonable, layered clothes may be the best option along with a hat, gloves, boots and jacket if we go outside.

### **Q. Can my child bring a cell phone in case of emergencies**

A. Campers will be asked to turn cell phones off or in the silent mode when at camp for the safety of animals and themselves. Parents should call the shelter to reach their child if there is an emergency. Campers will also have access to HSCO land lines for emergencies.

There will be a break in between one or two activities if children need to check their messages, however cell phone usage will be discouraged during actual camp activities.

**Q. Should I send food or snacks?**

A. You are welcome to send your child with their favorite or special (diet) snack.

We have a water fountain for campers to bring a water bottle and fill.

For summer camps, they are either a morning or afternoon session and campers should have a meal before or after their camp. HSCO provides a light snack during camp hours.

Winter break ½ day camp provides a light snack in the morning and campers may bring an additional snack or light lunch to enjoy during project time.

HSCO provides a healthy snack; most likely simple fruit. If your camper is allergic to anything or has dietary restrictions, please notify HSCO via your registration form.

**Q. My child is allergic to peanut butter. Can s/he attend and try to avoid it if it is present?**

A. The shelter uses significant amounts of peanut butter for treats and in the administering of medication. Because of this, we recommend children with severe peanut allergies not attend camp.

**Q. Can I drop off/pick up my child outside or do I have to sign them in/out?**

A. We require that parents and approved guardians sign children in and out because we want to ensure that at no point are campers left alone.

**Q. Can my child bring a friend?**

A. Please list the friend's name on your application and we will try and make sure that they are placed in the same camp. All campers must be registered before attending camp.

**Q. How will I know if my child got into a session?**

A. You will receive an e-mail confirmation with valuable information that you will need for camp.