



Camp Handbook

Humane Society of Utah
4242 South 300 West
Murray, Utah 84107

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About H.E.R.O. Camps

By reaching out to the children in our community, we can empower our youth with essential tools regarding the humane and responsible treatment of animals. Humane education has been shown to help prevent violence and help children apply the concepts of respect and kindness toward all beings in their own lives and the world around them. H.E.R.O. (Humane Educators Reaching Out) Camps are educational and will involve presentations to teach about animal guests before interactions.

Our camp schedules are similar between camps and are repetitive each year. Those who attend multiple camps should expect to meet some of the same animals, participate in the same presentations, and engage in crafts they have done before.

Contact Information

Phone	801.261.2919 ext. 269
Email	haley@utahhumane.org

Camp Hours

HSU hosts multiple camps throughout the year and hours vary. *Unless stated otherwise*, camp hours are generally:

Spring	9am - 1pm
Summer (1st-2nd)	9am - 1pm
Summer (3rd-6th)	9am - 3pm
Fall	9am - 1pm
Winter	9am - 1pm

Drop-off begins 15 minutes before the camp start time. Pickup ends 15 minutes after the camp end time.

Drop-Off and Pickup Procedures

Camp will begin and end each day in the Auditorium, located within the Adoptions building.

To ensure the safety of our campers, an authorized person must sign their child IN and OUT before and after each session. This is especially important during day one of camp so that our staff can review registration information.

Anyone picking up a camper must show a photo ID **and** be listed on the registration form, for every day of camp. When registering, please list all approved persons including yourself. Photo ID is not necessary at the time of drop-off.

Drop-off begins 15 minutes before the camp start time. Pickup ends 15 minutes after the camp end time. We do not offer extended care at this time.

Late pick-ups are subject to a fee of \$10.00 for every five minutes late. This policy will be strongly adhered to as our staff has job duties important to the care of homeless pets and cannot be expected to watch children after camp hours.

If you know that you will need to pick your child up from camp early, please let us know at the time of drop-off so that we can plan accordingly.

Dress Code

The best clothes for children to wear are clothes that are comfortable and can get messy. Whether interacting with animals, playing games or completing crafts, children might get dirty. We also encourage campers to wear sunscreen.

Shoes must cover the foot completely. This helps to ensure the safety of your child as we encounter many different landscapes on our campus, both indoors and out, and interact with animals.

Those with sensitive skin may want to bring a sweater or hoodie to wear during animal interactions where they will be holding the animal to avoid nail scratches.

Photography and Recording

The registration form states that you permit the Humane Society of Utah to use, without limitation or obligation, photographs, film footage, or audio/video recordings that include your child's image or voice for the purpose of promoting or interpreting the Humane Society of Utah programs.

Water, Snack and Lunches

Campers must bring a water bottle (preferably reusable with straps) labeled with their name each day to camp.

Snacks and lunch are not provided. All lunches must be brought from home. If a camper forgets lunch, it should be brought to the camper before 11 am.

Camp Policies

We ask that all campers adhere to HSU camp policies and rules at all times so that camp can be an enjoyable and educational experience for all.

Our camps promote compassion for both pets and people, and campers are expected to show kindness and compassion to animals, staff members, fellow campers, volunteers, customers and themselves at HSU.

HSU will help campers understand the appropriate ways to behave at HERO camp and how to appropriately interact with animals.

HSU Camp Expectations

All campers must agree to the following camp pledge:

As a kid who cares about animals, my community and myself, I will always:

- Be kind to pets and the people who love them
- Listen to and follow directions
- Stay with my group
- Remain calm and quiet in the presence of animals
- Wait my turn
- Speak calmly
- Show respect for the HSU campus and help keep it clean
- Stay safe, learn and have fun!

Behavior Management

At the Humane Society of Utah, we strive to use positive behavior management techniques. If a camper cannot show appropriate behavior or breaks camp rules, the following consequences may be used:

- Removal from the group with a staff member
- A call to parent/guardian to help remedy the situation
- A request that the camper be picked up early

In some cases, the child may be asked not to return if behavior does not improve. HSU will not issue refunds for any missed camp days.

Animal Interactions

Children may have the chance to interact with animals such as dogs, cats, small mammals, birds, reptiles, and farm animals. Interactions with animals may include observing, petting, playing, training, or holding.

The goal of HSU is to provide children with an enriching learning experience while ensuring safety at all times for the campers and the animals. We strive to achieve 30 minutes of group animal interaction daily - this is subject to change depending on group behavior and available animals. Campers will interact with both shelter population animals and educational ambassador animals.

Camp Checklist

What to Bring

- Snack
- Lunch
- Refillable water bottle, labeled with name
- Sunscreen (applied before each day)
- Medications, labeled with name. Please see the “Medications” section for more information about this
- Books, journals, or other similar items to use during free time
- Backpack or bags to hold personal items

What Not to Bring

- Personal pets are not allowed
- Money or objects of monetary/sentimental value
- *See section about phones/cameras/electronic devices below*

HSU is not responsible for any items that are lost, stolen or damaged.

Cameras/Phones/Electronic Devices

Phones and handheld electronic devices are permitted at the parent’s discretion, but all devices (including phones) must remain silent and put away during camp lessons and activities.

Campers may be permitted to use their phones during free time hours only. Cameras (or phones that may be used as cameras) may be carried, but can only be used when instructed by a staff member.

If at any time the camera, phone, or handheld electronic device becomes a distraction or is not being used appropriately, campers will be asked to put it away and not use it for the remainder of the day. If the item continues to cause a problem, HSU camp staff reserve the right to collect the item and return it at the end of the day.

We ask that larger electronic devices – such as laptops and iPads – stay at home.

Lost and Found

Please check with the HSU Education team regarding items lost at camp.

If we find an item left behind at the end of a camp session, we will email parents/guardians of campers registered for that session in an attempt to locate the item's owner.

We keep all found items for two weeks. After that time, items will be donated or disposed of.

Medications

If your child has a medical condition that requires prescription medication to be available or taken during camp hours, you must notate this in the Health History Form upon registration.

All medication must be clearly labeled with the child's name and dosage. **Staff will supervise your child taking medication but cannot assist with or administer medication.**

HSU cannot provide any non-prescription medication to your child. If you would like to send non-prescription medication, clearly label it with your child's name, dosage, and timing.

If your child is sick and at risk of spreading illness to others, we ask that your child stay home.

Allergies

Camp is not recommended for children with allergies to pets, pet dander or nuts. Camp is held in a facility that houses more than 200 dogs and cats. Dogs are given peanut butter daily and many treats contain nut allergens. For this reason, we do not recommend that children with these allergies attend camps at HSU.

Reasonable Accommodations

Please complete the space on the registration form to indicate any special needs. The more information you can give us, the better.

HSU will accommodate physical, academic and social needs to the best of our ability. Camps take place in a group setting. Please consider if your child is able to function in a group setting without one-on-one attention prior to registering for camp.

Cancellation and Refunds

Cancellations must be made at least two weeks prior to the camp start date and must be received in writing via email to qualify for a 50% refund.

The Humane Society of Utah will not issue refunds if registered students miss camp dates.

HSU Cancellations

The Humane Society of Utah reserves the right to cancel camp due to insufficient enrollment. In that case, full refunds will be issued.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register for HERO camps?

- Registration can be found at utahhumane.org/programs-services/humane-education/hero-camps
- Payment is due at the time of registration
- Registration closes approximately one week prior to the first day of camp

How do I know that my registration is complete?

When you register your child for camp, you will receive an email from our scheduling platform confirming the dates.

We require additional paperwork to be filled out the same day as registration. Information on completing this paperwork is detailed during the signup process and will also be sent again via confirmation email. You will receive a registration success email from haley@utahhumane.org upon completion of the paperwork.

HSU reserves the right to cancel registrations who do not complete the required paperwork on time.

What happens if I need to change my child's camp dates?

A request for a date change must be made at least three weeks prior to the camp start date and must be received in writing via email. Date change requests can only be made if space is available.

What's a typical day at camp?

Camp is different each day and will vary depending on the theme, but some activities may include:

- Indoor and outdoor games
- Take-home crafts
- Creating enrichment items for shelter animals
- Lessons relating to animals and pets
- Presentations by guest visitors
- Animal interactions

Who will work with my child at HERO camps?

All staff or volunteers who work directly with campers will receive a background check. All counselors and camp employees are interviewed and selected by HSU.

Your child may also interact with other HSU staff or volunteers during Q&A sessions, behind-the-scenes tours, etc.

How much animal interaction does my child get?

Attempts will be made for campers to receive as much animal interaction as possible, but not every activity will include animals. We estimate that campers will participate in 30 minutes of group or solo animal interaction daily.

How are campers grouped?

For Summer Camp, HSU recommends that parents use "rising" grades (example, a child who is finishing 2nd grade should be registered as a "rising 3rd grader" since they'll be entering 3rd grade the next school year). However, you know your children best and we encourage you to follow parental instinct. We reserve the right to make a professional judgment and move a camper to a more appropriate age group after consulting with you. For day camps, Spring Break Camp, and Winter Break Camp, please use your child's actual grade level when registering them.

Can my child be grouped with siblings or friends?

If they are the same age, they will be grouped together. If they are of different ages, they will be in different groups. We reserve the right to cancel the registration of a child registered in a session that doesn't match their age/grade.

If my child goes to HERO camp and interacts with dogs and cats, should I worry about my pets at home?

HSU takes safety protocol very seriously in order to provide a safe and clean environment for our animals, staff, volunteers and customers. While it is not likely that your child will purposefully encounter sick animals at HSU, we do recommend that children wash their hands and change clothing before interacting with pets at home after a day of camp.

Do you offer camp scholarships?

HSU is planning to offer scholarships for HERO Summer Camp 2024! Keep an eye out on our website for more details and how to apply.