**Camp Week 10: August 3-7**

Happy Friday Everyone!

This week is our final week of Camp Zoofari. While we will be sad to say goodbye to all of our virtual campers, we had a lot of fun this final week, visiting our sea lion family and some dragons too!

When we went to visit the sea lions, Jonah, our largest sea lion, was the only sea lion swimming in the pool. Cali and her son Max, along with Kamia and her daughter, TJ, were all swimming around in their pools in the back. Jonah was very curious to see what the campers were doing, and he swam by multiple times to check on us. Right before we left to visit the dragons, Jonah had a short training session with two of his keepers! He did such a good job, and Zookeepers Sophie and Amanda had Jonah pop up to give Blue camp a very personal hello!

After visiting the sea lions, all four groups decided to head over and visit the dragon exhibit. Each group explored the entire space, surrounded by a variety of different plants, sounds, and dragons too! Each animatronic dragon we visited has characteristics and inspirations from a variety of animals. Take a look at each dragon, can you think of any animals that share similar traits? With the Zoo’s reopening, admission to see the dragons is included with every ticket.

Blue camp posed next to the East Asian dragon, hiding along a tree branch to avoid being seen! Found throughout folklore and legends, the East Asian dragon, or lung dragon, is a symbol luck. With the body of a snake and the limbs of a hawk or eagle, this dragon is one of the biggest currently visiting the Zoo.

Green camp posed next to the feathered serpent, or Quetzacoatl. Found in stories throughout Mesoamerica, this dragon is thought to bring rainstorms and helps plants grow. The colors for this dragon, with lots of greens and golds, are also found in the feathers of the quetzal bird, which is also found in the same region. It is one of Mr. Nick’s favorite birds!

Yellow camp posed next to the sea serpent, or water dragon. Based on animals you won’t find at the Zoo, like the deep water oarfish or the giant squid, the water dragon has smoother scales and a body that is built to move around in the water. Similar to snakes, this dragon, can rear up and raise a large portion of its body off of the ground. Mr. Nick had to get creative to capture photos of yellow camp and the dragon! To see photos of some of these “behind the curtain” photos, check out the special folder on the photo website!

Purple camp posed near the largest dragon on the tour, the western dragon. When most people think of the dragons they have seen in TV or the movies, it is the western dragon they think about. With four strong legs and huge wings, this dragon was a sight! Purple camp climbed into some of the bushes so they would not have to get too close!

There were many other dragons on the walk, and they are all included with the photographs for this week. With each of them, can you see any characteristics they share with animals we have visited earlier this summer?

We hope all of you have had a wonderful time helping us with a virtual camp! Thank you for the opportunity to share a little bit of our summer with all of you. While it has not been the camp season we imagined, our team has enjoyed sharing the Zoo and amazing animals with each of you. Thank you for bringing a smile our team, we hope we have been able to do the same!

**Ms. Kelly and the Camp Zoofari Team**