

Camp Week 8: July 20-24

Happy Friday Everyone!

This week our campers ventured into the Wortham World of Primates to visit all of the monkeys, lemurs and apes that call the Houston Zoo home. Campers enjoyed having this portion of the Zoo all to themselves before it reopens to guests later this summer!

When we entered the primate exhibit the **Goeldi's Monkeys** were so excited to see us and greeted our campers with chirps and whistles. Goeldi's Monkeys are social, and our family loves being together. Our campers were able to meet Peach and her 3 babies Opie, AJ and Benjamin. We loved getting to visit the monkeys and were excited to see what other friends we could meet. In the videos, you can see Peach deciding that it is too hot to climb around, so instead she decides to lay out on the branch. If you listen closely, you may be able to hear Peach and the others chirping and calling out to each other!

Our next visit was to the **sifaka's**, and we had so much fun watching Zenobia and her two babies, Gulliver and Athena play in the leaves around the exhibit. Because the Sifaka's are a little sensitive to heat, we made sure to visit them early in the morning when their exhibit was a little bit cooler. We thought it was so funny to watch Gulliver and Athena wrestle and play together. They especially love to hang upside down and tug on each other's tails. Mr. Nick taught us that lemurs are amazing jumpers and brought out a special jumping mat to test our jumping skills. Most of our campers couldn't jump too far (it is hard to jump when you are made out of paper), but we found out that Sifaka's can leap 40 feet between trees! That's the same as a school bus!

Suddenly, our campers heard a loud noise coming down the path. We rushed over and to see if we could hear our two **siamang's**, Jambi and Berani, talking to each other. They usually sing a beautiful duet in the mornings that can be heard all over the zoo. As soon as we approached, they stopped singing. We ventured next door to visit another pair of primates, **our white cheeked gibbons** Max and Murray. Max and Murray also love to sing in the mornings, and the last few weeks we could hear them from our building. Today they were just lounging around in the exhibit, but the campers still had a wonderful time visiting with them.

Since the gibbons and siamangs decided they did not want to sing while we were near, the campers decided that the signs about not climbing the trees did not apply to virtual campers. Mr. Nick and the campers all took turns acting like monkeys in the trees, and each group tried to out climb the others to get the best tree-top photos! When you act like a monkey at home, do you act like a gibbon and climb trees, or do you prefer to run around really fast like a patas monkey?

We ended our visit with a peek at our **ring tailed lemur's**. Some of our campers remembered visit the lemur's last summer when baby Echo was just a few months old. He's now almost as large as his big sister Tully, and the campers had a hard time telling them apart. This exhibit was a lot of fun to visit, because we were also able to look for ducks and turtles that share the space with the lemurs. Luckily, the lemurs did not decide to have a "stink fight" while we nearby. Ring tailed lemurs will mark their territory by making a stinky liquid from special scent glands on their bodies. They often have stink fights to claim their own space. Imagine having to have a stink fight with your family to decide where you got to sit at the dinner table or to decide which room was your bedroom!

We can't wait for next week when our campers join us to explore the forests and savannahs of Africa. We are sure to have even more fun!

Ms. Kelly and the Camp Zoofari Team