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## Noah's Ark to host overnight safari camp

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**Special Photo -** Visitors to Noah's Ark in Locust Grove feed one of the numerous animals at the shelter. Noah's Ark will host an overnight camp, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the facility, beginning July 31.

Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center and Children's Care Home in Locust Grove will host an Adventure Safari Camp July 31 and Aug. 1. The event is a fund-raiser for the shelter, and will include an overnight camp and an after-hours look at the animal habitat.

Diane Smith, the assistant to Noah's Ark Director Jama Hedgecoth, said the camp allows people to see a side of Noah's Ark not often seen by visitors to the habitat.

"For one thing, they [campers] get to go into our pasture, visit with our animals and actually get to feed them," she said. "We also do a hand feed with the monkeys and toss meat to the big cats. It's a fun event. I've come to it as a volunteer, and I wouldn't miss one."

Smith said participants in the safari will have an opportunity to learn more about the origins and mission of Noah's Ark through a presentation by Hedgecoth and her son, Charlie. Campers will also be able to see the children's home "from a distance" during the event, she said.

"We can't go into the children's home, because of privacy issues," said Smith.

The cost for admission to the safari is a tax-deductible donation of \$100. Campers ages 18 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call Noah's Ark at (770) 957-0888 or visit [www.noahs-ark.org](http://www.noahs-ark.org).

- Jason A. Smith