

theZOO
LOUISVILLE
1969 - 2019

Celebrating
50
Years

Trunkline

FALL 2019

A photograph of two young girls with blonde hair, smiling and wearing matching costumes. They are wearing light purple long-sleeved shirts and large, voluminous pink feather collars. On their heads are orange and black toucan headbands. They are standing outdoors in front of green foliage and pumpkins.

**"The
World's
LARGEST
Halloween
Party!"**

Presented by Meijer



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HELLO!

I'M JOHN WALCZAK, DIRECTOR OF YOUR LOUISVILLE ZOO.

Summer is coming to an end and excitement is in the air as we gear up to celebrate the Louisville Zoo's 50th fall season! In this issue of Trunkline magazine, you'll find the latest news about the exciting things happening at your Zoo including upcoming events, animal updates, special stories from our keepers, conservation tips, 50th anniversary fun and more!

Below are a few of our feature stories:



MIKKI'S CALF HAS ARRIVED!

Mikki the elephant gave birth to a healthy male calf on August 2, 2019. Read all about Mikki and her new calf and see the photos.



ZOO STORIES

Part of the History. Read the adventures of longtime Louisville Zoo keepers Guy Graves and Mike Jones. Also, learn more about everyone's favorite coordinator of volunteers, Diane Taylor.



IT'S KOOKY, NOT SPOOKY!

"The World's Largest Halloween Party!" presented by Meijer is almost here. Learn more about the most exciting Halloween party in Louisville and get started on your plans to attend.

Zoo Address

1100 Trevilian Way
Louisville, KY 40213

Telephone

Administrative Offices: (502) 459-2181
FAX: (502) 459-2196
Education: (502) 238-5358
Membership Office: (502) 459-2287

Zoo Hours — Open Daily

Now through Sept. 22, 2019
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (stay until 6 p.m.)

Sept. 23, 2019 to March 20, 2020
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (stay until 5 p.m.)

Check website for hours,
early closings & special notices.

Printed by LSC COMMUNICATIONS

Admission

Visit our website for seasonal pricing.

Children 2 and under
receive free regular admission.

Groups (15 or more) purchase online at
LouisvilleZoo.org/buyonline.

Visit Us Online

LouisvilleZoo.org

Follow us on social media



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Trunkline is published four times a year by the Louisville Zoological Garden, John T. Walczak, Director.

The Louisville Zoo, a nonprofit organization and the state zoo of Kentucky, is dedicated to bettering the bond between people and our planet by providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and leadership in scientific research and conservation education. The Zoo, an agency of Louisville Metro Government, is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

SAFE
SAVING ANIMALS
FROM EXTINCTION

Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT



REALLY BIG NEWS

Mikki and her new calf during their first few days bonding together.

NEWS!

Mikki's elephant calf has arrived! Following a 22-month gestation, African elephant Mikki successfully gave birth to a male calf Friday, August 2 at 11:24 p.m. The calf was 38.5 inches tall, 30 inches long (body, head to tail) and 78 inches from the tip of his trunk to the tip of his tail. His weight was 275 pounds on August 4. It is the second elephant born at the Louisville Zoo in the Zoo's 50-year history.

Because Mikki was born in the remnant wild (rescued from a culling operation in Africa in 1987) and her DNA is not related to any other elephants in managed animal populations, her offspring are significant, adding to the diversity of the entire elephant population. Genetic diversity is critical in sustaining a healthy population as it increases the likelihood that the members will be better able to adapt and survive.

During the calf's birth, Mikki was attended to by the Zoo's Animal Health Center and elephant keeper staffs as well as Dr. Dennis Schmitt, the leading North American expert in elephant reproductive physiology and veterinary management.

The Zoo's Senior Veterinarian Dr. Zoli Gyimesi said Mikki's labor progressed nicely without complications and that the calf was "strong and vigorous." According to Dr. Schmitt, "The delivery was textbook. All the staff, both elephant and veterinary staff, knew their roles and performed them perfectly."



The new calf discovers what his trunk can do.

To help the Zoo and the community celebrate the birth of Mikki's calf, the Zoo's gracious partners at Churchill Downs, Louisville Waterfront Park and Louisville Gas and Electric lit their iconic structures, the Twin Spires, Big Four® Bridge and the LG&E building, green to symbolize the calf's significant birth as part of the worldwide conservation efforts for this magnificent and vulnerable species.

Mikki and calf are doing well. Mikki, calf and their herd mate — Asian elephant Punch — will be off exhibit while the herd bonds. An announcement of a public debut as well as a naming contest will be made in the near future. Be sure to follow the Louisville Zoo on Facebook for the latest updates.

You can also follow the adventures of Mikki and her calf including status updates, blogs, a photo / video gallery, FAQs, press releases, conservation information and more at LouisvilleZoo.org/Mikki.

Once Mikki, Punch and calf are on exhibit, don't forget to share

your photos and tag us using #mikkiandcalf and #mikkisjourney.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) elephant breeding program is administered under the auspices of the Elephant Species Survival Plan (SSP), a cooperative program of all accredited zoos with elephants. The plan promotes the survival of elephant species into the future by providing links between zoo animal "ambassadors" and the conservation of their counterparts in the remnant wild.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

It's an exciting time for the Louisville Zoo.

We are so thrilled for Mikki and this calf. I am very proud of our staff and the amazing job they did to ensure a smooth and safe pregnancy for Mikki, a successful birth and now for the ongoing care of Mikki, her calf and "aunt" Punch. We are grateful to our community for embracing Mikki's pregnancy and being a part of her journey. Raising a calf is one of the most enriching things an elephant can experience. Elephant breeding at accredited zoos provides critical support for elephant conservation. Every day, more and more habitats for wild animals are lost due to a growing human population, habitat destruction and poaching. The African elephant population has declined and we want to do our part to help with conservation efforts both locally and worldwide.



Before you visit us, check out

LouisvilleZoo.org/Mikki

for daily schedule updates.

AND FOLLOW THEIR JOURNEY #MIKKIANDCALF



GUY GRAVES: THE FERRET GUY!

When you think of zoo keepers, you probably think of those dedicated individuals you've seen cleaning exhibits and caring for the animals in rain, snow and sweltering heat. They provide enrichment, make sure the animals are healthy and well fed, and also engage people with talks and demonstrations that help spread awareness about wildlife and their vulnerable habitats.

What you may not imagine about zoo keepers is that in many accredited zoos and aquariums, there are other keepers working entirely behind the scenes to conserve endangered species. These special conservation heroes spend their days in masks and scrubs, trying to prevent another precious animal from joining the list of extinct species.

Guy Graves is one of these special zoo keepers at your Zoo. Guy is the head of our Black-Footed Ferret (BFF) Conservation Center—and has been since its inception in 1990. "I believe people will always think of me as 'weasel one'—the black-footed ferret guy," Guy said with a laugh. "I've done it for so long, almost 30 years now."

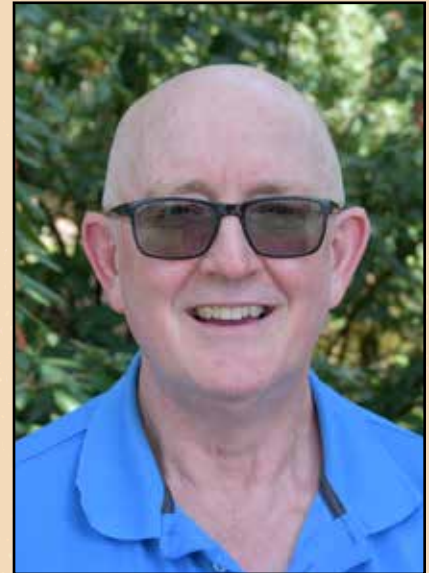
But Guy wasn't always the patron of ferrets. In fact, long before the black-footed ferret came to

Louisville, Guy was just a young Zoo volunteer helping out in the elephant area. "I think it was 1976 or 1977 that my parents were driving me out to the Zoo to volunteer during the summer. I couldn't drive yet," he said. Guy continued to volunteer in the elephant department, and once he received his degree in Animal Science from Purdue University, he began his full-time keeper career. "My official hiring date as a keeper is May 1985," Guy explained. "I've only ever worked at the Louisville Zoo."

When Guy became a full-time zoo keeper, he first worked in Aquatics and then returned to elephants.

Guy worked in elephants for seven years—and what an amazing seven years they were! He was there when Jana the elephant came to the Zoo as a baby followed by little Mikki shortly after. "I'll always remember training Mikki and Jana. When they both arrived, they were so small I could stand over them with a leg on either side. Even though they are grown now, I will always think of them as little bitty things."

While Guy was working in the elephant area, something incredible but frightening was happening across the country. A ranger's dog



Guy Graves

had discovered a small population of black-footed ferrets in Wyoming—a species that had been considered extinct until that moment. At first, researchers tried to simply observe the ferrets, but within a few years the population quickly started to die off due to canine distemper. To save the ferrets, the Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Program was born, and in 1987, the ferrets were brought into managed environments so that professionals could try to conserve the species through propagation.

The Louisville Zoo Director at



DID YOU KNOW

When the black-footed ferrets are ready for release, they are typically sent to the National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center in Colorado where they go through pre-conditioning. While there, the ferrets are placed in an enclosed outdoor area where they can be protected from predators, gain experience at catching live prairie dogs and learn the natural burrowing system. They are also vaccinated against canine distemper and plague. This significantly increases their chance of survival in the remnant wild.

A black-footed ferret.



the time, Dr. Bill Foster, was interested in the program and began campaigning for the Louisville Zoo to join the effort. "There was originally some hesitation because we aren't in the historical range for these ferrets," Guy explained. But Dr. Foster persisted and by 1990, a Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center was built at the Louisville Zoo. Guy decided a career change was in order. "I didn't really know much about the ferrets at the time, but I knew I wanted to be part of this new program," he said.

By 1991, the Louisville Zoo had celebrated its first breeding season. During the Conservation Center's first years, concern about protecting these rare ferrets from outside diseases was paramount because there were so few individuals left. "It was just a few generations from the original 18 ferrets. You had to take a shower anytime you went into the building. If you went out to lunch, you had to take another shower. So, you either got really organized or really clean. That lasted about eight years until the population increased enough. We still wear masks and dedicated clothing, but we no longer have to take a shower every time we come in," said Guy.

Over the years, Guy's keen insights would result in many protocol improvements that helped not only Louisville but the other propagation partners as well. "We were the first facility to discover that even though

these ferrets are nocturnal, they would breed during the day," The Louisville Zoo was also the first facility to discover that keeping cooler temperatures in the ferrets' nest boxes helped to keep the dams (mothers) from abandoning their kits (babies).

The Louisville Zoo is now one of the leaders of black-footed ferret propagation and one of only six facilities that participate in the conservation program, along with the National BFF Ferret Conservation Center in Colorado, which houses the majority of black-footed ferrets, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, the National Zoo's Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Washington, D.C., the Phoenix Zoo, and the Toronto Zoo.

The Louisville Zoo has released approximately 700 ferrets into managed environments in the remnant wild. "It's still a challenge. The ferrets will likely always need intervention because we have to ensure there are enough prairie dogs where they are released," Guy said. Prairie dogs are the sole source of prey for these endangered ferrets. Unfortunately, the prairie dog population is about one percent of what it was at the turn of the 20th century.

Guy shared that one of his proudest moments



Guy Graves prepares to clean the "den" of a black-footed ferret.

was the birth of the Zoo's 1,000th black-footed ferret kit in 2014. The 1,000th kit was named JoGuy after Guy Graves and fellow keeper and ferret enthusiast Joanne Luyster, who has since retired but was with the conservation center from the early years.

In 2018, Guy was named the coordinator of the entire Black-Footed Ferret Species Survival Plan. His long-term involvement with the ferrets over the last three decades has made him an invaluable resource to others.

"The lesson of the black-footed ferret is we should never put ourselves in this situation again," Guy said. "We were lucky to find that last colony of 18 animals out of Wyoming but we need to integrate thinking about the animals early on. We have to use more foresight in how we develop our world, or we will continue to lose more species. And you never know just how important they are until they are gone."

For a time, the Louisville Zoo didn't have black-footed ferrets on display for the public. However, you can now visit one of the most endangered mammals in North America when you visit the MetaZoo Discovery Center.



Guy Graves and Zoo Director John Walczak participate in a 2015 BFF release in Colorado.

MICHAEL JONES: MAN OF ACTION

If you ask who at the Zoo has great stories, Assistant Mammal Curator Michael Jones is certainly one of the names that comes up. Michael celebrated his 20th year as a Zoo keeper this year, and during those two decades has worked in most of the animal areas of the Zoo. It's easy to see why he has so many fun stories.

Michael, like many of your Louisville Zoo's longtime Zoo keepers, was an animal lover from a young age. "When I was a kid, I spent a lot of time in the woods," Michael said. "I would bring home animals I thought were abandoned or hurt — birds, turtles, salamanders. One time, I brought home a ground hog and it bit my sister. My parents were really unhappy about that." Michael also recalls spending his Sunday evenings eating ice cream and watching Wild Kingdom with his grandparents. "I remember telling them I want to work with animals when I grow up," he said.

Michael began his Zoo experience as a volunteer in the Zoo's HerpAquarium. His first paid position at the Zoo was as an intern in the Small Animal Area, the space that is now home to the Islands exhibit. It was a bit of serendipity that the person who hired Michael was Gary Michael, our current Curator of Birds. Gary had gotten his start in the Zoo world with the support of Marlin Perkins—the host of Wild Kingdom, the show Michael grew up watching. During Michael's internship, Gary offered him a newly opened position in the bird department.

Michael spent a short time in the bird department and as a night keeper before moving to the Aquatics area for three years. Back



Mike holds a snow leopard cub after a veterinary exam circa 1995.

when Michael started, Glacier Run had not been built yet and so the care of everything from seals and sea lions to bears and big cats was placed under the title of an area called Aquatics. "I think my first or second week in Aquatics was when we performed exams on newly born polar bear cubs. These cubs were about 30 pounds but you needed two full grown men to hold them because they wanted to eat you alive. They didn't understand it was just an exam. It was like trying to grab a running chain saw!"

But after three years, Michael couldn't quite shake his love of reptiles, and finally, he made his way back to the HerpAquarium. While there, Michael and current



Mike cleans the reticulate python exhibit. This python was over 20 ft. long.

Ectotherm Curator Bill McMahan, became part of the Zoo's first ecological study of native Kentucky wildlife. It involved the use of radio-telemetry tracking and monitoring the habits of timber rattlesnakes in Bernheim Forest. "Two days a week, Bill and I would spend half a day at Bernheim tracking rattlesnakes. There wasn't a lot we knew about timber rattlesnakes in Kentucky then except the population was decreasing. By tracking them, we were able to learn what time of year they mate and how often, where and what they were eating, how far they traveled and where they were denning. One day, we were trying to track a rattlesnake and we couldn't find it. We knew it was there because we had a signal from it. We didn't know rattlesnakes went into trees. Well, we found out that day. It was hanging over our heads in a tree branch."

From the HerpAquarium, Michael moved into supervising the animal commissary, then moving on to manage the Giraffe, Boma Petting Zoo and Valley areas, which includes the care of the Zoo's maned wolves, lemurs, and big cats like Amur tigers, puma and snow leopards. "I've never found something I didn't like to work with," he said. "Sometimes, you don't know how much you enjoy working with an animal until you've tried it. I've known many staff who have come into the profession with a particular animal in mind that they want to work with but end up in another area and love it so much they never leave."

Earlier this year, Michael added another fun adventure to his long list: working with UPS Air Cargo to accompany our new snow leopard Meru from LA to Louisville. To prepare for the trip, Mike worked directly with UPS staff to gain FFA clearance, learn Homeland Security regulations and take jump seat training – placing him right next to the pilot in the cockpit! Luckily for Mike, his pilot, Captain Edward

Faith knew the drill with transports like this as he was one of the pilots who flew Qannik the polar bear to Louisville from Alaska in 2011. When the day finally arrived, Michael left Louisville around 6 a.m. and he didn't return to Louisville until about 4 a.m. — 22 hours later!

"Meru did great; he laid down comfortably and was very calm, just keeping his eye on things," he recalled. "I was pretty much running on adrenaline. Everyone was so excited to be part of this project. There was a huge group of UPS employees lined up on the runway to send us off in LA. The same thing occurred when we arrived back in Louisville; there was a line of employees waiting to receive us — some weren't even scheduled to work, but they had just come in to see us. Everyone felt connected to this cat— from the person who fingerprinted me for my clearance to the UPS runway crew. It seemed like everyone felt the importance of protecting this rare animal. It reminded me about the incredible the work of zoos in helping people make connections with nature and also with each other."

When asked about his favorite part of working at the Zoo, Michael said that he loves helping with the propagation of animals to ensure that his kids and even his grand kids, get the unbelievable experiences that he had growing up. "The Louisville Zoo has been a part of my life as long as I can remember. I grew up in Charlestown, Indiana. The Louisville Zoo was my zoo growing up. It was my kid's zoo. Now, I have two granddaughters, a 5-year-old and a 2-year-



Mike Jones with a small alligator animal ambassador, circa 1990s.

old. It's amazing to see them sit on the same rhino statue I sat on as a child."

Even after many years and many different careers in the zoo profession, Michael's enthusiasm is still growing. "My family likes to travel to zoos around the country on our vacations. I hope to visit one in every state. I love when I go to a zoo and see an addax or a bongo (antelope) that I helped raise. Now, those bongos are introducing a new generation of kids and families to wildlife. There's nothing better than knowing I have been part of continuing that legacy."



A KINDI UPDATE

Our favorite little gorilla Kindi is growing up fast! In March 2019, we celebrated her third birthday. So, what is she up to these days? Kindi is as rambunctious as ever but now looking more like a juvenile than an infant. She enjoys playing and hanging upside down on cargo nets, noshing on veggies and fruits with surrogate mom Kweli and exploring the different areas of Gorilla Forest.

Kindi and Kweli are well on their way to being integrated into silverback Casey's family group which includes female Paki.

Right now, you may see various groupings of gorillas as keepers let them become acclimated to varied scenarios

Eventually, we hope the family group will consist of Kindi, Kweli, Paki and Casey — but the timing depends on when the gorillas are ready to take this important step — they will let us know. You can learn more about Kindi, see her viewing schedule and learn what she's been up to at LouisvilleZoo.org/kindi.



Kindi and Kweli explore the outdoor Gorilla Forest habitats.



SPLASH A LITTLE LONGER

This summer has been hot, hot, hot so far! It's been so hot the Zoo has decided to give guests a little longer to enjoy a splish-splashy cool down. Take advantage of the added fun and stop by the Splash Park, now open weekends through Sept. 22 (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.).

There are lots of other great ways to cool down at the Zoo: visit LouisvilleZoo.org/plan and read "Don't Let the Sun Stop Your Fun!" to learn more.

A SPECIAL CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY

... AND A ZOO FLASHBACK

For many children, one of their favorite features of the Louisville Zoo is its beautiful restored antique Conservation Carousel.

This turn-of-the century carousel was built in 1919 by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company, one of the premier carousel makers in the world at that time. The carousel that is known as PTC#49 and is nicknamed the Old 49, found its way from Clementon, New Jersey to Marion Ohio in 1996.

There it was meticulously restored by Carousel Concepts before making its way to the Louisville Zoo in 2000 with the help of the Mary Lee and Adam Burkle Charitable Reminder Trust. It stands majestically at two stories tall, has a 24-foot tall center mast and displays over 700 lights; the rounding boards, shields and inside scenery panels are reminiscent of bygone days. The handsome pavilion was built in Louisville with support from the Paul Ogle Foundation.

When refurbished, the carousel's original 48 wooden horses and 2 chariots were replaced with non-wooden replicas echoing the

vintage feeling of a nostalgic ride. The Zoo has since replaced 24 horses with hand-carved and painted wooden animals of all kinds, many endangered. The most recent additions include a butterfly, Komodo dragon, penguin and Canada lynx. Dr. Bill Foster, Zoo Director at the time of the carousel's arrival, stated that the carousel is a unique way to accomplish the Zoo's mission "to better the bond between people and our planet." He explained that "for young children, the carousel is a gentle introduction to the world of animals; for adults it is a reminder of the need to conserve our rich resources for the next generation." He added, "I can see these children bringing their children to the Zoo and telling them 'when I was your age, I always rode the cheetah.'"



BE A PART OF HISTORY!

Commission a hand-carved wooden animal for the Conservation Carousel. All donors will be recognized on a plaque installed on the Carousel pavilion. To learn more, contact the Development Office at (502) 238-5615.

**LEARN MORE AT
LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/CAROUSEL**

MEMBERSHIP

Fall is a great time to enjoy your Zoo!

The approaching crisp fall air is calling you to take a walk on the wild side. Fall is a great time to get outside and experience all your Zoo has to offer. While the Zoo starts gearing up for "The World's Largest Halloween Party!" presented by Meijer, members know there's plenty more to do year-round! Enjoy a hot chocolate while you sit on the new Outpost Patio and watch our colobus and Schmidt's red-tailed monkeys or take a stroll through a Nepalese-themed village as you view our three snow leopards on rotation in their fun, engaging new environment, Snow Leopard Pass. Be sure you get out and ZOO something different during these cooler autumn days.

The Membership office is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call us at (502) 459-2287. Be sure your membership is active or renew now and don't miss anything!

A GREAT NEW EXPERIENCE

We are happy to offer you an opportunity to enjoy more animal experiences, bring more guests, meet your Zoo keepers and learn more about how you are helping to save wildlife and wild places with our new **EXPERIENCE** benefits package. Included in the EXPERIENCE benefits package are 4 guest passes, unlimited carousel rides, 2 lorikeet feeds, 2 giraffe feeds and an invitation to one of our three exclusive annual EXPERIENCE events. These after-hours EXPERIENCES are sure to thrill family members of all ages. The exciting new benefits are included with the new Family Plus EXPERIENCE membership level and donor-level memberships (Curator, Nature's Guardian and Wildlife Champion). **Learn more about these programs at LouisvilleZoo.org/members.**



ZOO BUCKS

The Louisville Zoo is pleased to offer members coupons with various Zoo offerings like guest admission and activities. We hope you enjoy the following limited-time promotional offers. Please check the expiration dates and restrictions on the coupons.



“THE WORLD’S LARGEST HALLOWEEN PARTY!”

Kooky. Not Spooky.

Thursdays – Sundays (October 3 – 27)

Join the Party 5 – 8:30 p.m. (route open until 10 p.m.)

Special Ticket Required. If scary is no fun for your little ones, then don't miss the sweetest party in town. Enjoy your Zoo magically transformed into a living storybook with costumed characters and trick-or-treating for kids 11 and under.

We invite you to be our guest as you meet some of the most royal princesses in the land, journey back in time and marvel at prehistoric dinos, and dive into the fun as you explore under the sea. Visit with Mumpkin the talking pumpkin, wander up the yellow brick road and test your courage, brains and heart, then dance the night away in our out-of-this-world Astro Disco. Join us for a party that gets bigger and better around every turn!

Special Nights

Oct. 3 – 6, 10 – 12

PNC GROW UP GREAT LEARNING ADVENTURE

This traveling exhibit provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to learn about the importance of early childhood education while they engage in fun activities with their kids.

Thursday, Oct. 17

ALLERGY-FRIENDLY NIGHT

This special night will feature peanut-free treat booths and added non-food treats like stickers, sunglasses, pencils and more. Our “Switch Witch” will also be on grounds to help kids swap out any treats of concern for a safer option. For more information about this and other special nights, visit LouisvilleZoo.org/hall-allergy.

REMINDER
On Halloween
Party nights, the
Zoo closes early to
daytime guests. Gates
close at 3 p.m. (visit
until 4 p.m.)

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Ticket Options

Admission tickets are required for all guests ages 3 and older. Infants age 2 and under are free.

Group Tickets of 15 or more can be purchased in advance by calling (502) 238-5348.

Member Prices

PRICE	TYPE	TICKET
\$2	ONLINE TICKETS (First 2 Weeks)	Oct. 3–6 & 10–13 ONLY
\$6	ONLINE TICKETS (Last 2 Weeks)	Oct. 17–20 & 24–27
\$6	AT ZOO TICKET WINDOWS	ALL Halloween Party Nights

Non-Member Prices

\$8.50	Meijer Discount Tickets Available at local participating Meijer Stores while supplies last. On sale starting Sept. 23	ALL Halloween Party Nights
\$12	ONLINE OR TICKET WINDOWS General Admission Subject to availability	ALL Halloween Party Nights

The Halloween Party is rain or shine.
No refunds or exchanges.

Parking

PRICE	TYPE
\$5	GENERAL PARKING (Members & Non-Members) CASH ONLY (Parking Passes not available)

THERE ARE NO PARKING SHUTTLES THIS YEAR.



HOW TO ORDER MEMBER TICKETS!

To get your discounted member tickets, simply visit LouisvilleZoo.org/Halloween

1. Select your date and time.
2. Click "LOGIN WITH CARD NUMBER"
3. Enter your card number (located on your membership ID card, beneath the barcode) and your last name. Verify with your zip code, phone number or email. Choose ticket quantity and then confirm your details. IMPORTANT: The email address listed is where your tickets will be sent.
4. HAVE FUN!

ZOO GOODIES

Brighten the night for your little princesses and superheroes with our selection of glow wands and other fun light-up merchandise. NEW this year: pumpkin bubble wands!

Don't forget to stop by concession stands to enjoy our special seasonal treats including s'mores! **Members get a 10% discount on select items!**





Hot Tips















1. For quick entry and to avoid lines, **purchase your tickets online** at LouisvilleZoo.org/halloween. Don't forget to print your tickets before you head to the Zoo. If you use mobile tickets, be sure to pull up the email before checking in.
2. In general, because of \$2 member tickets (online only), the **first two Saturdays are typically the busiest days**, especially if the weather is nice. For a quieter experience, easier entry, and parking, see our crowd calendar.
3. Traffic can be scary for this fun party; avoid delays and **arrive via Newburg Rd.**
4. **5 – 6:30 p.m. is our busiest party time.** You may want to consider attending later in the evening to enjoy the twinkle lights, lanterns, carved lit pumpkins and the glowing atmosphere of the Zoo at dusk! Not only is it festive, it's also less crowded.
5. If you're looking for a safe place to trick-or-treat with little ones with allergies, join us on our special **Allergy Friendly Night** on Thursday, Oct. 17.
6. **Wear comfy shoes.** The trick-or-treat trail features 20 treat booths along a route that is approximately 1.3 miles long or around 3,330 steps!
7. **Complete your costume with a special face painting session** from the artists at Kaman's Face Painting (*additional charge*).
8. While we encourage you to come in costume, remember we are a family-friendly party. **Adults cannot wear masks.**

Tips and more FAQs at LouisvilleZoo.org/Halloween

DID YOU KNOW?

1982 was the first year the Zoo presented a Halloween party. Back then it was simply called "Halloween at the Zoo" and featured a pumpkin judging contest. That first year approximately 4,000 people attended and it was a one night event only!

Best Times To Attend

THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.
OCT. 3 	OCT. 4 	OCT. 5 	OCT. 6 
OCT. 10 	OCT. 11 	OCT. 12  VERY BUSY!	OCT. 13 
OCT. 17 	OCT. 18 	OCT. 19 	OCT. 20 
OCT. 24 	OCT. 25 	OCT. 26 	OCT. 27 

CROWD SIZE



SMALL



MEDIUM



LARGE



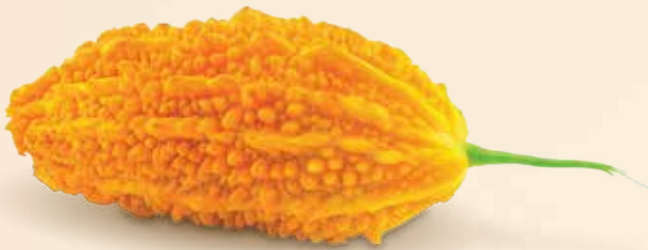
Trick-or-treating is for kids 11 and under! Help us be "green" and bring your own treat bag or purchase a reusable bag at the Gift Shop for \$2.



ghost pepper



blood orange



momordica



dragon fruit

Scary low prices on over 600 frightfully
farm-fresh produce items.

meijer[®]

Proud to support the Louisville Zoo –
host of the World's Largest Halloween Party

Party Attractions

Be sure to check out these fun party activities! *All attractions are subject to the cooperation of weather, animals and maintenance. Additional fees apply.*

Spooktacular Carousel: \$2

Take a spin on the carousel before or after you trick-or-treat.



"Not-so Itsy Bitsy" spider house: \$2

Come view the intricate and beautiful webs these beneficial insects weave. This popular walk-through 1,000 sq. ft. spider house lets you stroll alongside real spiders and their webs.

Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow: \$2

Journey back in time to the legendary Sleepy Hollow as you hear the famed tale of Ichabod Crane from one of the town's guides. Don't lose your head on this walk-through guided attraction as you spot the legendary Headless Horseman!



Food and Gifts

Purchase yummy snacks throughout the Zoo at places like the S'mores Pit and the many Dippin' Dots locations (ask for the Zoo's 50th birthday flavor!). There are also plenty of cool glow items at the Main Gift Shop or kiosks you will see along your journey. There are also fun photos and face painting. Zoo members receive a 10% discount on select items.



Viewing Animals

While you may catch a glimpse of a few party animals, many of our animal residents will not typically be on exhibit in the evenings so they can rest.

There are no promises, but you are most likely to see maned wolves, grizzly and polar bears, snow leopards, bongos and rhinos.



Thank YOU!

This popular FUNdraiser provides critical support every year to the Zoo's animal care programs, botanical garden, visitor experiences and conservation education. Many hands help create the magic of "The World's Largest Halloween Party!" Our thanks to the entire "cast" and "crew" with special thanks to our presenting sponsor Meijer and to all other partners and sponsors that help make it possible. And thank you too, of course, to our new party guests and those who return every year. There is no party without you!



More Info?

For all the details and a full list of FAQ — Visit LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/HALLOWEEN

EARLY CLOSING NOTICES

The Louisville Zoo will be closing at 3 p.m. (visit until 4 p.m.) for private events on these days.

- Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019
- Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2019

The Louisville Zoo will be closing at 3 p.m. (visit until 4 p.m.) on the following days to prepare for "The World's Largest Halloween Party!" presented by Meijer.

- October 3-6, 10-13, 17-20 & 24-27
- For more information see page 13.



Wednesday, Sept. 11, 6 – 9 p.m.

Trivia begins at 7 p.m.

LOUISVILLE ZOO TRIVIA NIGHT

Special Ticket Required.

Put on your thinking cap and enjoy some friendly competition while testing your knowledge at the Louisville Zoo's inaugural Trivia Night. This fun-filled evening will include music, food & drink specials, prizes, and of course, trivia! All proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the Zoo's daily operations.

Get your tickets at LouisvilleZoo.org/trivia.



Friday, Sept. 13
Viewer's Choice Winner

**FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE:
HOCUS POCUS**

Enter the Zoo from 5 – 8 p.m. *
Movie event area opens at 6 p.m.
Movie starts at sundown

Enjoy a movie under the stars at the wildest theater in town. Watch your favorite movies on our giant inflatable screen. **Come early and meet 3 wacky witches before the film!** Plus, the Zoo Crew will provide free entertainment before the show. Snacks and other refreshments will be available for purchase. Don't forget to pack your blanket or lawn chairs.

* Movie nights are **FREE** to Louisville Zoo members and only \$5 (from 5 – 8 p.m.) for non-members.

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Saturday, Sept. 21; 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

FLUTTER FEST

Brought to you in partnership with Idlewild Butterfly Farm
To celebrate the end of this season's butterfly adventure, we will tag (while tags last) and release over 1,000 monarch butterflies coinciding with their annual migration. Participate in our crazy obstacle course and other games, crafts and more. Louisville Metro Division of Community Forestry will be giving away 300 plants and trees (one per attendee while supplies last).

Details at LouisvilleZoo.org/butterfly



50TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS!

Presented by



And our many
generous friends
and supporters

LOUISVILLE ZOO POP-UP PARTIES

The Louisville Zoo is celebrating 50 years as your community Zoo. As part of the festivities, and to extend our celebration into the community, the Zoo has been "popping up" in area neighborhoods all season long!

There's still time to join us for some fun! Play games like cornhole. Meet one of our new mascots (Leroy the rhino or Miles the giraffe) and take a fun selfie. Enter to win a Zoo ticket package so you can come and celebrate with us here at the Zoo this fall!

See the locations at LouisvilleZoo.org/50.

WE WANT TO SHARE YOUR STORIES TOO!

Post your pictures on social media with the hashtag #LouZoo50 & #wearelouzoo. Tag us on Instagram @louisvillezooofficial, or on Twitter and Facebook @louisvillezoo. Don't forget to make your post public!



Take a trip through time. See what was happening at the Zoo, in the news, and in pop culture (songs, movies, and more).

Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/50 to learn more.



Top: The Louisville Zoo "pops up" at the Comfy Cow.

Left: Leroy dances with a young Zoo fan at the South Central Regional Library.

SPECIAL COUPON

The
COMFY COW
is celebrating the Zoo's 50th Anniversary.
Now scooping
Polar Bear Freeze,
a flavor we created in honor of
this special celebration!



Bring in this ad for
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Expires 10/31/2019



METAZOO CLASSES

FALL SAFARI DAY CAMPS

Hours

Drop Off: 8–9 a.m. | **Camp:** 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. | **Pick Up:** 4–5 p.m.

Price: \$57 per day Members / \$63 Non-Members

Spend your school breaks at the wildest camp in town! All camps include Zoo walks, presentations, attraction rides, and up-close encounters with Zoo ambassador animals. Convenient hours for parents make the Zoo the perfect choice for families! Choose an option below based on your child's grade level. Parents should provide a lunch and snack for their child each day.



OCTOBER 4, 7 & 8

Prek – K: Insectigations

Mission insect-i-gate! Become an entomologist and discover some of our favorite creepy crawlies.

Grades 1 – 3: Animal Ancestry

The animal kingdom has an incredible family tree. Learn about the evolution and surprising relatives of some of your favorite animals. Can you guess who is related to whom?

Grades 4 – 6: Our Changing Earth

Can you uncover the secret to nature's rhythmic patterns? When do flowers bloom? What time of year do animals migrate? When do insects emerge every year? Explore the science of the seasons as we explore nature's life cycles.



NOVEMBER 4 & 5

Prek – K: The World Around Us

Step into a day in the life of kids from around the world. How do they live? What animals are important to their culture? Explore the world and the people and animals that call it home.

Grades 1 – 3: Animal Journeys

From the largest wildebeest that crosses the Serengeti to the smallest salamanders in Kentucky, animals from around the world migrate each year. Explore the reason for the movement of millions of animals around the globe.

Grades 4 – 6: Field Study

Grab your field guide and practice your naturalist skills as we explore ecology, plant and animal identification, habitats and wildlife tracking.

SAVE THE DATE

Winter Camps 2020
January 2, 3 & 6



KIDS FOR CONSERVATION

A **Backyard Action Hero** is a kid or adult who's really into nature and wildlife and is ready to take action to protect them. They care about the animals and habitats in their own backyards as well as animals around the world. They know that to make a difference, they not only need to learn but also to act.

The Toyota Backyard Action Hero Guidebook will help you learn all about the natural world around you and the amazing animals in it. Since the Louisville Zoo is a great place to learn about plants, animals and ways to take planetary action, this guidebook will also give you a peak at what's happening at the Louisville Zoo!

Below is a preview of the 2019-2020 guidebook. It's our 50th Anniversary edition with fun posters and great activities.

Do you love animals and our wonderful environment?

Become a Backyard Action Hero!

Backyard Action Hero is presented by

TOYOTA



Fabulous Flamingos

Flamingos are fun to look at, aren't they? With their beautiful pink coloration, long legs and unique beaks, they are one of the most iconic birds on the planet. But, did you know that their appearance isn't just a coincidence? Like most animals, a flamingo's structure and function are specifically suited to its environment!

Because flamingos live in swamps and lakes, they have long legs that help them to stand above the water. You may notice they seem to have a backwards bending "knee." Did you know, that part of the leg is considered the flamingo's ankle? Their actual knee is so close to the body that it can't be seen through the bird's feathers

and it bends the same way as your own.

Have you ever seen a flamingo stand on one leg? Research says there could be a few reasons for this: to conserve heat, to minimize contact with bacteria and also because it's simply more comfortable for them to stand that way.

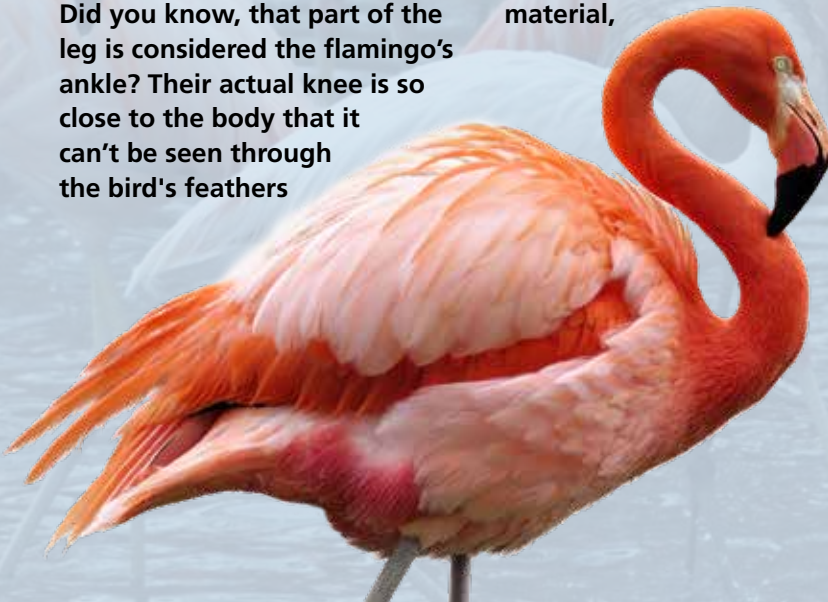
Flamingos also have long necks that help them to hold their bills upside down for several hours while feeding. This helps them to filter the water from the things they eat like algae, plant material,

insects, brine shrimp and more. The carotene in the shrimp they eat causes their pink color.

See the full version online at LouisvilleZoo.org/BAH starting in mid-September!

Chilean Flamingo

- **Habitat:** shallow, volcanically-heated lakes of Andean highlands and lagoons in the Atacama desert in Northern Chile.
- **Size:** 3.5 feet tall
- **Weight:** approximately 6 lbs.
- **Life expectancy:** approximately 25 – 40 years. One of the flamingos at the Louisville Zoo is 50 years old!
- **Diet:** sand fleas, snail larvae and shrimp.
- **Conservation status:** near threatened. At risk due to habitat loss, predators, lack of food and pollution.
- **Fun fact:** a flock of flamingos is sometimes called a flamboyance.



DIANE TAYLOR: 40 YEARS OF INSPIRING VOLUNTEERS

"Diane Taylor has been a mentor to me and so many other volunteers. She's one of those people you don't want to let down. She really cares about volunteers and expects everyone to do their best. When I was on the Youth Board, we would always say there's two beings in the Zoo that have ultimate power: the Canada geese and Diane Taylor."

Noah Barnes

2014 FORMER LOUISVILLE ZOO
YOUTH BOARD PRESIDENT

On any given day, you might see Diane Taylor walking through the Zoo, water bottles in hand for her volunteers, waving to and greeting her peers with a voice that overflows with positivity, energy and confidence. A Bardstown native, Diane has been part of the Zoo's team for over 40 years.

Although it's likely difficult for many of the Zoo's staff and volunteers to remember her doing anything other than coordinating volunteers, Diane actually started out at the Zoo as a receptionist under Director Bob Bean in 1978.

"I remember when I first met Mr. Bean. He seemed sort of hard-nosed the first time I met him — but he was behind me every time it came to getting promoted." Diane was promoted to payroll in 1984 and by 1988, she became Coordinator of Volunteers. "When I became coordinator, there were only 200 volunteers. Now, there are 2,900."

During Diane's term as coordinator of volunteers, she was the inspiration behind lowering the age for volunteers from 16 years old to 13 years old. Several of our current Zoo keepers started out as teenage volunteers under Diane Taylor — Steve



Coordinator of volunteers Diane Taylor smiles for the camera.

Burton in elephants, Kelly Bennett in Gorilla Forest, Kat Curtis and Cynthia Burger in giraffes, Craig Mikel in the Bird Dept., Stephanie Green in Glacier Run and Peter Lindle and Hunter Veeneman in the commissary.

Being the oldest of seven children and having raised her two children, Felicia and Chiquita, Diane is no stranger to cultivating teenagers into exceptional adults. "I never forget where I came from. I try not to baby our teen volunteers. I treat them like

Diane visits the Indianapolis Zoo for the Youth Board annual trip in 2019.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Youth Board was taken on by coordinator of volunteers Diane Taylor in 1997. With her guidance, they have raised more than \$100,000 over the years to support capital campaigns and special projects they felt passionate about. They created face painting and sand art programs that allowed Zoo guests to participate in building new exhibits while having fun.



Photo by Felicia Carmichael

the young adults they are. In just a few years, they will be out in the real world," she said. "I think it's good for young people to have leadership that empowers them to do and think for themselves. It helps them open up."

"Working with the Zoo's volunteers is a really special thing," Diane said with a big smile. "My motto has always been, 'I work for the volunteers; the volunteers don't work for me.' I'm here every morning in the summer at 7 a.m. when the kids get dropped off by their parents. I say hello to all my volunteers every morning. I send them birthday cards and make sure they get their special volunteer recognition dinner every year."

The Zoo's volunteers currently save the Zoo approximately \$1.2 million per year in personnel costs. In addition, the Zoo's Youth Board has raised funds through face-painting and other revenue generating projects allowing them to donate over \$100,000 toward major capital projects including the most recent additions of Penguin Cove, Snow Leopard Pass and Colobus Crossing.

"You have to love the volunteers. In the morning, the teens arrive and I'm dancing and smiling. The teens say, 'You are so cheerful; It's only 7:15 in the morning.' I don't come in with an attitude. I want them to see the cheer on my face. I am just proud of all of them, past and pres-

ent. I was 22 when I started here. It has gone so fast. When I came here in 1978, I never knew that after 41 years, I would still be here."

When Diane retired in 2004, the Diane Taylor Spirit Award was created in her honor. But eight months later when her replacement left, she came back to work at the Zoo — and her award continues on as a testament to her attitude and her legacy. "When I finally do retire, God willing that I do, I hope to see the program continue. I look forward to seeing what my volunteers do in the future."



Top: left to right: Assistant Director Steve Taylor, Former Education Curator Marcelle Gianelloni, Former Director Bob Bean, Coordinator of Volunteers Diane Taylor, Director John Walczak

Bottom: Diane's early Zoo years as a receptionist



FROM MAYOR GREG FISCHER

Earlier this year, I was honored to help celebrate the opening of the Zoo's new Snow Leopard Pass exhibit, and as I watched children and families enjoy the beautiful Tibetan-inspired habitat, I was reminded of our responsibility to protect our valuable natural assets and preserve them for future generations to enjoy.

Natural spaces like the Zoo help us reconnect to the animals, the environment and with each other. The Zoo also serves as a living classroom, helping children of all ages develop an appreciation for and sense of responsibility toward the animal and plant life

on our Earth. This is an important asset on our path to becoming a city of lifelong learning and an even more compassionate city, where everyone's potential can flourish.

As the Zoo celebrates its 50th anniversary, I hope you will take advantage of Louisville's wonderful autumn weather and head out to the Zoo so you can enjoy reconnecting with nature, as well as your friends and family. Consider what actions you can take to protect the animals, the environment and our community as well. Only when we care for others, can we ensure a better future for us all.

Zoo Kids, Inc. Connecting Kids & the Planet both Inside & Outside the Classroom

By Leslie Wilson, Development Specialist

Do you remember your first trip to a zoo? Did experiencing animals in person that you'd only seen before in books, on television or in the movies change your feelings about them? We hear from teachers regularly that subject immersion through site visits helps to bring topics of conservation, biology and environmental studies alive for their students in a way that other teaching tools cannot.

In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught.

These words by Baba Dioum, a Senegalese conservationist, from 1968 still ring true today. Most children have their initial encounter with endangered species and discover what goes into their conservation through school field trips to zoos. To strengthen this bond between children and their planet while also making the Louisville Zoo accessible to students from around our region, we founded the Zoo Kids, Inc. (ZKI) program over 15 years ago.

This grant-giving program provides subsidies for Title 1/Free Lunch schools and non-profit organizations that serve underprivileged children ranging from pre-school through 12th grade. ZKI offers them the opportunity to experience what most other children get to do, visit the Zoo. Giving them the chance to see firsthand the immense size of an elephant, to look into the eyes of a gorilla, or hear a lion roar. With the generous support of local businesses, foundations and individual donors, we can offset the cost of admission for these schools and organizations. These students

receive a unique, educational experience and create memories that last well after the field trip ends. This past academic year, ZKI helped bring more than 4,500 schoolchildren from over 12 Kentucky counties to the Zoo at little or no cost to their parents or school. We hear all the time from teachers that many of their students had never been to a zoo before this subsidized trip.

Breckenridge-Franklin Elementary represents one of the many schools that has benefited from the program over the years. Teacher Jennifer Feeley and her fellow kindergarten faculty have developed an entire curriculum around their fall field trip that includes student projects that are displayed at an Exhibit Night for parents and family and a hardcover book about their favorite animals. Ms. Feeley recently wrote "I am very grateful and appreciative of the Zoo Kids grant... Each year I find out that more than 50% of my class have never been to a zoo. These students are missing out on experiences that some of us take for granted. If we did not get the grant, we would not be able to go. Each year, my students tell me the best part of the year is when we went to the Zoo."

Zoo Kids, Inc. receives exponentially more applications each year as the need in our community and throughout the region grows larger. The program depends on the generosity of businesses including annual supporters LG&E and KU Energy, Greater Louisville United Labor Picnic, LLC., and Friends of the Louisville Zoo and caring individuals like you. To make a gift in support of this exciting program, please visit LouisvilleZoo.org/Donate or contact our Development office at (502) 238-5386.



Zoo Director John Walczak learns more about goats with a Breckenridge-Franklin kindergartner.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR ZOO:

Become a Louisville Zoo
Sustainer Society Member

Direct your 401(K) or IRA
minimum required distributions
to the Zoo

Round up your next
membership renewal in support
of the Louisville Zoo Fund

Plan to upgrade to a Zoo license
plate next time you renew
car tags

Plan a Behind-the-Scenes Tour
or experience

Join the Zoo's Animal Care
team with a gift to the Louisville
Zoo Fund

Contribute appreciated stock
(security account #81938307,
DTC #0141)

Name the Louisville Zoo as
beneficiary on an insurance policy

To learn more about how
you can support the impor-
tant work of the Zoo, contact
us at **(502) 238-5615** or visit
LouisvilleZoo.org/support.



THANK YOU TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LOUISVILLE ZOO!

The Friends of the Louisville Zoo Board have been producing Zoofari! for 38 years and Brew at the Zoo for 11 years, raising funds to support capital and education initiatives at the Zoo. Their generous contributions have benefited projects like Islands, Glacier Run, Gorilla Forest and Lorikeet Landing. Most recently, the Board has supported the Snow Leopard Pass and Colobus Crossing exhibits, as well as the new bridge near the Lakeside Cafe. Funds raised this year will support a new exhibit for 2020.

We are grateful for their continued support and dedication to follow their mission of "raising funds to preserve a legacy."

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Raising Funds to Preserve a Legacy



SPONSOR THANKS

Every day, the Louisville Zoo welcomes visitors, supports conservation projects, creates once-in-a-lifetime memories and cares for endangered wildlife. Just like our animals, corporate partnerships with the Zoo come in many shapes and sizes. Your business or organization can partner with the Zoo through many different opportunities including event or program sponsorships, group events and more! With attendance of over 759,000 this past year, your brand has the potential to reach a significant number of families in the region. **For information on how you can become a Zoo corporate sponsor, contact ZooSponsorship@Louisvilleky.gov.**

Special thanks to our generous sponsors for these programs:

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*Celebrate the upcoming animal birthdays
(or any of our animal ambassadors) with
a gift that will directly support animal
care and enrichment.*



Chi Chi
(Red-tailed monkey)
turns 17 on Sept. 12

Romulus
(Komodo dragon)
turns 2 on Oct. 19



**Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/donate
and check the tribute box.**

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Dec. 7-8 & 14-15, 2019
10 a.m., Noon & 2 p.m.

Special Ticket Required.

Santa is making a special stop at the Louisville Zoo and he's bringing some of his North Pole friends along too. Enjoy a visit and photo with Santa plus meet Mrs. Claus and Frosty the Snowman. Includes yummy refreshments, a fun holiday craft, special animal encounter stations, festive sing-alongs and more.



Purchase your tickets early.

Tickets go on sale in early October at: LouisvilleZoo.org/Santa