

theZOO
LOUISVILLE

FALL 2021

Trunkline

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Presents

Boo
at the
Zoo

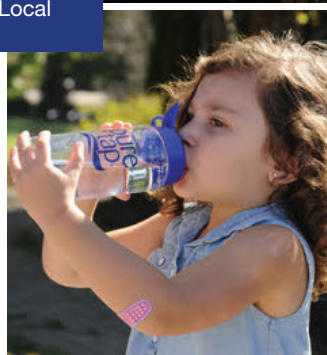
Reserve
your tickets
before they
sell out!

It's a ZOO out there...

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The care you count on

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Look for the 

GREETINGS

During these uncertain times, your Louisville Zoo is here for you and our community. We are dedicated to providing a safe environment to help you and your loved ones unplug and re-connect with the natural world. We have lots of news to share about our autumn season, including updates about your favorite animals, upcoming events and more.

Below are a few of our featured stories:



LEMURS' NEW DIGS!

The Zoo's lemurs have new exhibit features to explore and some new faces in the group. Learn all about the exhibit changes and meet the Zoo's new lemurs!

BOO AT THE ZOO PRESENTED BY MEIJER TURNS 40

A favorite Louisville tradition since it began in 1982! In addition to trick-or-treating, Boo at the Zoo features an all-inclusive experience — including parking, a carousel ride, a tour of the spider House and a visit with the Headless Horseman!

CAMPS AND SLOTH TOURS

Choose from Safari Day Camps, Virtual Programs, Sippy Cup Strolls and behind-the-scenes tours featuring one of our adorable sloths, Sunni or Sebastian. These programs sell out quickly, so don't delay!



We take our work home with us. PriceWeber is delighted to be part of the Louisville Zoo family.



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

Through Sept. 19, 2021

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (stay until 6 p.m.)

Sept. 20, 2021 – March 18, 2022

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (stay until 5 p.m.)

Check website for hours, early closings & special notices.

Open year round except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Admission

General admission tickets and memberships can be purchased at the Zoo or in advance online.

Children 2 and under receive free regular admission.

Visit Us Online

LouisvilleZoo.org

Editorial: Heather Dishon, Rebecca Sizemore, Joseph Thompson

Designer: Robert Kemnitz

Photographers: Noah Barnes, Dawn Bartley, Will Bird, Cat Compton, Heather Dishon, Kelly Grether, Jessie Grizzle, Robert Kemnitz, Katherine Morrison, Sara Palomino, Kyle Shepherd, Anna Stradley, Alexis Williamson, Bill Wine, Tanya Zeitz

Cover Photo: Adobe Stock

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Trunkline is published three 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).



Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow

As we say farewell to Director John Walczak after 36 years, we wanted to share some words from the Zoo team about what they will miss about him most.

John is honest, dedicated, transparent, vigilant and always with the best intentions to better the Louisville Zoo ... and always with the staff in mind. His passion for the zoo business has been inspiring and we will miss his attention to detail and aptitude for exhibit design and construction. He's very deserving of a long and gratifying retirement.

— Zoli Gyimesi, Senior Veterinarian

Each time John visited Glacier Run, he made it a point to talk to each staff member — volunteers, interns and keepers alike. Behind-the-scenes tours with John were always fun and made a lasting impression on our visitors.

— Tracy Unger, Glacier Run Keeper

They say, "Find something you like to do, and you will never work a day in your life!" John Walczak promoted me three times at the Louisville Zoo, affording me a career I had only dreamed of... which included lassoing Cuban crocodiles in prehistoric swamps, 20-foot pythons, Komodo dragons, mambas, cobras, Gaboon vipers and radio-tracking timber rattlesnakes in dense Kentucky forests — all while working with the finest people I have ever known. John did that for me!

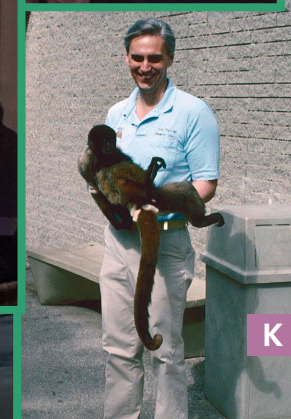
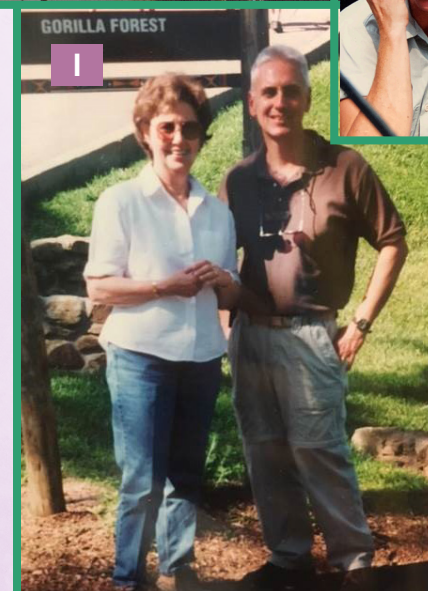
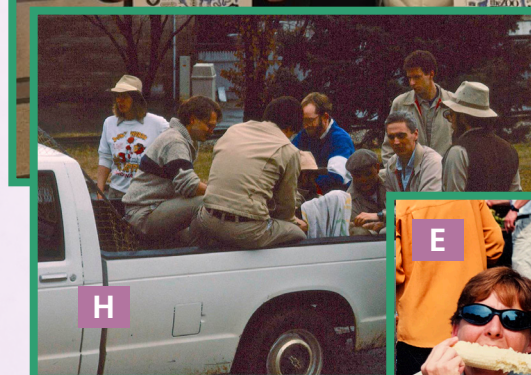
— Bill McMahan, Ectotherms Curator

John Walczak made an effort to know not just my name, but the names of all staffers and volunteers. To John, we are all important, and he showed us how much he felt our contributions matter to the Zoo. As a 15-year-old, it made all the difference in the world. John showed me exactly what kind of person I wanted to be. I strive to never be "too important" to say a kind word with a smile.

— Noah Barnes, Marketing Seasonal

John has always been a calm presence when faced with tough moments, a positive voice in the office and a strong advocate within our community. His passion for the planet and people is unmatched. It has been an honor to work alongside him and I'm happy I get to call him a friend.

— Kelly Grether, Development Director



No task is beneath John's help or notice. Though he is unbelievably busy, if you ask for his help or feedback, John will make time to assist you. He even had a fall at home before his retirement party — and should've gone to surgery — but he refused to miss his big farewell to the team. I wish him lots of rest and relaxation in his retirement!

— Heather Dishon, Communications Coordinator

John has a great passion for the Louisville Zoo and cares very much for the staff here; he will always do what he can to help any one of us. I started working at the Zoo as a teenager who needed a summer job, and as I had other jobs throughout my career I was always drawn back to the Zoo. The main reason for that was to be a part of something special that was made possible by John bringing so many good people together and cultivating our passion for this place. I'm so happy to be at the Zoo and I thank John for giving me a career pathway to thrive here.

— Sean Woods, Zoo Facilities Manager

Anyone with aspirations of being a leader could learn from John's example. He is passionate about the mission and it shows in his interactions with guests, donors, staff and our animals. He is also the first to pitch in and lend a hand. John is known for picking up trash he sees during walks through the park. Does your director / boss do that? Ours does! John is there with us at midnight breaking down tables after Brew and moving items in the rain during Zoofari! It has been a privilege to work for him and I will continue to follow his example throughout my career. He will be missed!

— Lori Hagest, Development Coordinator

John has been the "Mayor" of the Louisville Zoo handling everything from animal exhibit design work to guest relations to fundraising in a span of hours. His love and concern for the Zoo never stops at 5 p.m. He has been 24/7 for 14 years! It would be great if we could bottle his enthusiasm for the Louisville Zoo and sell it in the gift shop.

— Margue Esrock, Administrative Assistant

A) John Walczak holds court at his staff retirement party with a wounded leg. B) John at the Zoo's 50th anniversary celebration. C) John unloading a truck full of animal food. D) John observes a woolly monkey exam. E) John attending a conservation cook-out for our black-footed ferret program. F) John speaking at the Zoo's 50th anniversary celebration. G) John moves a timber rattlesnake in the MetaZoo. H) John assists in transporting an addax. I) John with executive assistant Benita. J) John in face paint getting ready for the Derby Parade. K) John with a woolly monkey. L) John filling up the pond in the giraffe area. M) John at the HerpAquarium groundbreaking.

John In His Own Words

When my wife and I left the Oklahoma City Zoo to accept the Louisville Zoo HerpAquarium Curator position, it was supposed to be a career stop of 3 – 5 years. The HerpAquarium didn't even have a name at the time and was just a vague concept on paper. What a great opportunity to design the building, acquire the collection and assemble a great staff. What a fantastic experience and resume builder. However, the charm of the Louisville community wrapped its arms around us, and the Zoo stole our hearts. Now, here we are more than 36 years later, retiring in our adopted hometown. When we moved into town the day after Derby 111, I never dreamed I would have the honor of leading the Zoo as its Director for these last 17 years.

It isn't possible for me to put into words how much I have enjoyed this journey. I have had the pleasure of working with amazing animals and incredibly dedicated people, including two of my inspiring predecessor directors: the late Bob Bean who cared so much about the dedicated staff that he would spend Christmas morning cooking brunch and serving the staff that special meal; and Dr. Bill Foster, the charismatic innovator who performed the first successful embryo transfer from a zebra to a quarter horse mare.

The staff is every bit as remarkable, with amazing stories of dedication. Do you remember the great snow of 1994 which shut down our town? Eleven of us walked into the Zoo to care for the precious animals that were depending on us that January Monday. Assistant Director Steve Taylor had the record distance, walking in all the way from the heart of J-town through those 17 inches of snow. Another trooper who walked almost three miles was Marcelle Gianelloni, who also picked up Bob Bean's tradition of making sure the staff had a great brunch every Christmas morning for the last 33 years. These are just a few of the many stories of incredibly dedicated people who do whatever it takes to provide the very best care for our precious charges.

And the animals. I have learned so much from them. They have filled my life and touched my heart. I could tell stories about the individual animals that you love and know by name. To mention one of these wonderful ambassadors of the wild, I would need to tell you about them all. Trunkline just does not have enough pages. Suffice it to say, it has been a privilege to have known them and be a part of their lives.

The Zoo has accomplished a great deal during this time:

- We have reproduced and reintroduced more black-



footed ferrets, the most endangered mammal in the US, than any Zoo in the world.

- Islands, Gorilla Forest and Glacier Run have been selected the best exhibits of the year by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
- We have made great accomplishments in providing conservation education to our community through award-winning programs.
- And we have created a place for you and your family to make great memories.

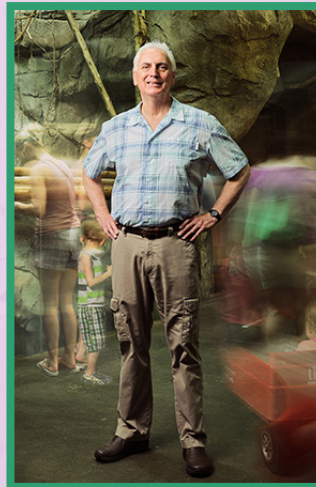
We could not have done any of this without you, our members. Your interest and support of your beloved Zoo is a cornerstone to its success. Thank you for always being there for us in good times and the tough times. Thank you for your understanding and support of your Zoo's mission and conservation work. Thank you for coming to decades of "Boo at the Zoo." Thank you for caring about rare habitat and endangered species. Thank you for caring about the health of your planet and supporting Zoo conservation and humanitarian efforts around the world. Thank you for helping us take the very best possible care of the precious animals. And thank you for allowing your Zoo to be part of your family and part of your lives.

You may have heard me say this before, but I wholeheartedly believe that there has never been a more important time for the role of an AZA-accredited Zoo. We provide a place to escape the everyday pressures of life, to associate with amazing wild beings and to make great memories. We are also the community's touchstone for conservation education and learning about living in balance with nature. We need our Zoo, and the animals need us.

Yes, I am retiring, but I will always support this community treasure. I hope you will join me in ensuring this asset is cared for and thrives for generations to come.

It's been an honor to serve you,

John
Your Zoo Director



FINAL DAYS
Extinct Sept. 19!



2021 Season Sponsor



DON'T WAIT ANOTHER 200 MILLION YEARS!

Not all dinosaurs are gone and buried underground, some are roaring and hungry at your Louisville Zoo! Since June, Louisville Zoo has partnered with Dino Don Inc., the world's leading manufacturer of scientifically accurate full-sized robotic dinosaurs, to bring them to the Bluegrass State. Sponsored by Great Clips; this new attraction is FREE with your Zoo membership or Zoo admission! See all 21 moving, breathing, roaring robotic dinosaurs who measure up to 40 ft. long, now through Sept. 19.

This event has been 200 million years in the making, so don't miss out!

Discover even more Dino information at

LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/DINO

Lovable Lemurs Have Wild New Digs!

By Joseph Thompson, Marketing Seasonal
Photos by Jessie Grizzle

Louisville Zoo guests have some new faces awaiting them at one of the beloved first stops of the Zoo. The lemur exhibit has undergone a makeover!

The new layout now features climbing structures, a heated hut in the center of the exhibit and misters throughout the enclosure.

Construction on the exhibit space began in 2020 and was completed in 2021. This original Zoo exhibit was retrofitted to create a space that put the welfare of the lemurs first and brought them to the guests' eyeline.

The enclosure's new design provides greater opportunities for enrichment and animal well-being. The new, heated dry shelter gives the lemurs an additional space option for rainy, windy and cooler days.

"The heater in the ceiling was useful this past spring on colder mornings and will be very useful in the fall as the temperature drops," said Mammal Curator Michael Jones.

The exhibit also contains supplemental green space, incorporating some new plant species throughout the space. Even though ring-tailed lemurs are mainly ground dwellers, they are well-adapted to arboreal

movement — locomotion through the trees — and the new structures, including a large tree on the north end of the enclosure, provide opportunities for the lemurs to put their climbing abilities to the test. The lemurs also have bedroom areas that they can retreat to. These areas are important for keeper observations of the animals. The Louisville Zoo's General Curator, Ron Evans, said, "The retrofitting of this exhibit and the additions to this space will allow us to better monitor and respond to the needs of the ring-tailed lemurs in our care."

EXHIBIT HISTORY

This exhibit space was included in the Louisville Zoo's first master plan, developed in 1964. The enclosure's rocky structure originally housed Barbary sheep, native to rocky mountains in North Africa. It was later inhabited by geladas, a species of Old World monkeys. The enclosure's name changed to "Baboon Mountain," which turned out to be a misnomer since geladas are technically not a species of baboon.

Lemurs were moved to the mountain-like enclosure in 1994. When the newly named Lemur Mountain exhibit opened, it became home to two male black-and-white ruffed lemurs from the Louisville Zoo, a male and female pair of black lemurs from St. Louis, and three male ring-tailed lemurs from a conservation park in Georgia. Two of the ring-tailed lemurs, Ivan and Faust, are still with us today!

NEW EXHIBIT AND NEW FACES

Along with the new design, the Zoo also welcomed some new faces to the lemur exhibit. Three ring-tailed lemurs, Hermes (10 years old), Hawthorne (9 years old) and Cedar (9 years old) joined us from the Utica Zoo in New York. These three males joined longtime animal ambassadors Ivan and Faust.

"The two older lemurs are 30 years old and the new group of three lemurs are about 10 years

old, so there is a huge age gap. The activity level of the new, younger group is dramatically different. So, the two groups will be good neighbors and rotate part of each day outside," said Michael Jones.

GHOSTS OF MADAGASCAR

There are over one hundred different species of lemur in the world today! Native to Madagascar and belonging to the group of primates called prosimians, most of the lemur species in the remnant wild are identified as endangered or vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Sadly, the island nation of Madagascar is a critical hotspot for conservation efforts due to rising deforestation, commercial exploitation of wildlife and degradation of crucial habitats.

Lemurs have an important ecological role in their environment, but they also hold a cultural importance to the Malagasy people. The Malagasy used to believe that lemurs were phantoms of departed souls, due to their loud vocalizations and large eyes. Their name reflects this lore, deriving from the Latin word "lemures" which means "ghosts"

or "nocturnal spirits."

Ron Evans, who also serves on the Prosimian Taxon Advisory Steering Committee for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, identifies ring-tailed lemurs as, "fun and inspirational ambassadors at the Louisville Zoo and a flagship species for conservation worldwide." The new enclosure design will allow guests to form better bonds with these incredible "ghosts" of Madagascar and the efforts to protect their threatened habitats. Be sure to head to the Zoo to see your favorite lemur friends in action in their new exhibit space! ■

**For all the latest on exhibits, visit
LouisvilleZoo.org/TODAY**

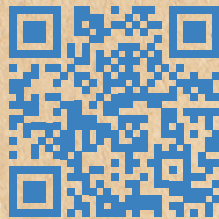
“FLIPPING” OUT FOR FINSBAY

Finsbay, the gray seal pup, is getting to know the other pinnipeds in the seal and sea lion habitat in Glacier Run. He has been paired with the Zoo’s female harbor seal, Toney, for several weeks now, and he’s really gravitated toward her. They share time on deck and in the pool together and can often be seen swimming side-by-side or with Finsbay trailing right behind Toney.

The next step in the process is introducing the Zoo’s older male gray seal, Minnow, into the mix. Minnow is very energetic when it comes to training, but his overall demeanor is very calm. He has been sharing an adjoining bedroom with Finsbay and Toney for the last few weeks. The keeper staff will often see both gray seals observing each other through the “howdy panel” — mesh fencing

between the bedrooms that allow the animals to see each other. The two gray seals were recently introduced without a barrier between them and everything went swimmingly. The staff is hopeful that the introductions will continue to progress well and eventually lead to all three animals sharing the same space for a prolonged period.

Finsbay is currently not on exhibit, but you can see what he’s up to by tuning in to the live Seal Cam. Just scan this QR code for a peek at the young pinniped!



REOPENED AREAS!

Following guidelines from the CDC and public health officials, the Zoo is now operating at full capacity for all members and guests. Members do not need to reserve tickets online to enter the Zoo. Indoor facilities, including the HerpAquarium and Islands Pavilion, have reopened. The Splash Park, tram rides, ropes course, playgrounds and the Conservation Carousel are also open for the season. Other animal attractions that are open include the Lorikeet Landing, the Boma Petting Zoo and the Wallaroo Walkabout. See our daily attraction schedule, food venues, updated health guidelines and more at LouisvilleZoo.org/today.



WALLABY WELCOME!

A new addition to our Wallaroo Walkabout joined us in February. The wallaby joey, Gunnar, was born to mother Alexa and father Nunga. Wallaby infants are very tiny when they are born, only about the size of a lima bean! Gunnar is much larger than that now, and keepers say he has a very shy and timid personality. He will approach the keepers by following another wallaby in the yard named Lulu. Lulu has a big appetite, so Gunnar has learned that if he follows Lulu to the keepers, treats will follow. We are excited to continue to watch this little marsupial grow up!



MONITORING OUR MONITOR LIZARD

Romulus, the Zoo’s male Komodo dragon, is growing up! He is currently a little over 5 feet long and weighs almost 18 pounds. Last year, in the spring of 2020, he weighed a little over 12 pounds, so he is growing quite nicely. The 3-year-old monitor lizard is expected to become around 8 or 9 feet long and could weigh in at around 185 pounds when he is fully grown. Now, that’s a big lizard! Romulus will be transferred to the Islands Pavilion sometime this fall. The exact date is subject to local weather conditions — Komodo dragons are tropical monitor lizards, so we try to keep him outdoors to soak in those extra UV rays until the last possible moment.



SCROLLING OUR SLOTH SOCIALS

Our sloths have gone virtual! You can see our many animal ambassadors and get updates on Zoo news via the Zoo’s official social media channels on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram — but the demand for content featuring the Zoo’s Linnaeus’s two-toed sloths has given rise to an account of their very own. Moving at about 13 feet per minute, they aren’t in any real rush to become #influencers. However, they are slowly making their way. Bring some fun to your feed and follow our sloths as they crawl to stardom on Twitter (@LouZooSloths).

GETTING FESTIVE ABOUT FITZ

The beloved African elephant calf, Fitz, celebrated his 2nd birthday on August 2! If you’ve been following his progress, you know he loves wallowing in the dirt and running in the rain. He is getting more independent over time and can be seen trying to push logs around his exhibit space. Watching Fitz grow has been so much eleFUN!



trashformation

A Trash-to-Treasure Art Contest

Powered by



Foundation

Additional Support by



Our ninth annual Trashformation contest award ceremony was held virtually on April 22, 2021! It was a different kind of culmination of this year's Party for the Planet: A Month-Long Celebration of the Earth, powered by the LG&E and KU Foundation. Louisville Zoo Director John Walczak and LG&E and KU's Vice President of Corporate Responsibility and Community Affairs, Angie Evans, virtually announced awards for the talented students whose work showed the most creativity in re-purposing recyclable trash into art objects. Sculptor Ed Hamilton also checked in from his studio to inspire some of our future artists, share insights about art and congratulate our winners.

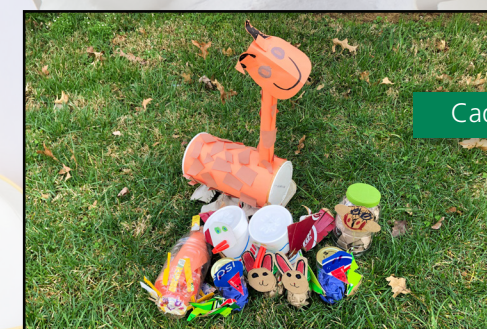
GALLERY OF WINNERS



Madison Alvey's Giraffe



Layla Neel's Guitar



Cadence King's Animals

2021 WINNERS!

INDIVIDUAL

Preschool to Kindergarten (tie)
Cadence King & Felicity King

Grades 1 to 2
Dottie Mathews

Grades 3 to 5
Madison Alvey

Grades 6 to 8
Nathaniel Caldwell

Grades 9 to 12
Lila Allport

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Preschool to K
Carly Neel

Grades 1 to 2
Layla Neel

Grades 3 to 5
Christopher Deoki

Grades 6 to 8
Hannah Hogg

Grades 9 to 12
Woodie Hodgen

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Dottie Matthews' Bug



Lila Allport's Einstein portrait

MEMBERSHIP

By Adam Shaft, Membership Supervisor

FALL is the perfect time to enjoy
ALL your Zoo has to offer.

Enjoy the crisp fall weather with a walk on the wild side, and watch your Zoo transform for Boo at the Zoo as our staff and volunteers work to create the perfect scene for a safe and fun outdoor Halloween experience.

FASTER TO THE FUN

Members, follow these tips for easy entry into the Zoo.

Members no longer require tickets for regular Zoo hours.

Feel free to arrive anytime during regular Zoo hours without reservations or tickets; just bring your card or app and proceed directly to the gate to be scanned in.

Download the FREE Membership Card App.

Forgot your card? No problem, download the Louisville Zoo Membership Card App. Please call (502) 459-2287 or stop by one of the ticketing windows for your verification code.

Confirm your membership details online at LouisvilleZoo.org/member.

Go to "manage profile" to verify your membership level, names, number of children (if applicable), address, phone number and email. Can't make a change to your account or notice an error? Call us at (502) 459-2287 or email ZooMembership@Louisvilleky.gov.



How to Renew Your Membership

- Online at LouisvilleZoo.org/member
- Call (502) 459-2287

REMINDER: Membership cards are not mailed. Please pick up your permanent card at any ticketing window on your next visit or download the free Membership Card App.

Presented by



Through Oct. 31, 2021
Enter the Zoo Daily 8 – 9:15 a.m.
Exit the Zoo by 9:30 a.m.

Just a reminder to our dedicated Walking Club Members: walking hours will end for the season on October 31. Get your steps in while you can! Thanks to all who joined us this year. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2022.

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

The Louisville Zoo is available as a choice in the Kroger Community Rewards program. Kroger aims to give back to the charities, schools, and other nonprofit organizations that matter to you most by letting you choose to whom you assign your donation. Simply enroll at krogercommunityrewards.com. Choose the Louisville Zoo. Then, each time you swipe your Kroger Plus Card, Kroger will donate money to support the Louisville Zoo. Enrollment is required yearly, so please renew if you haven't already! For more in-depth instructions, please visit our website at LouisvilleZoo.org/support/kroger.



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ONE FREE BAG OF CHIPS, COOKIE OR PICKLE WITH PURCHASE OF ANY SANDWICH

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Boo at the Zoo presented by **meijer**

Advance timed and dated event tickets required

All members must purchase a ticket online in advance to attend this fundraising event at the Zoo. Members receive special discounted pricing for Boo at the Zoo by entering their membership number and validating info online before purchasing. Not seeing a discount when you enter your info? No problem, call us at (502) 459-2287 or email ZooMembership@Louisvilleky.gov.

More information on Boo at the Zoo on pages 16-19

Members: be sure to check page
15 on your printed version of
Trunkline for great deals at your
Zoo this season!

Boo at the Zoo

Presented by

meijer®

Thursdays – Sundays (October 1 – 30)

Start the fun nightly at 5 p.m. (route closes at 10 p.m.)

Special ticket required. A Louisville tradition for 40 years, Halloween-time transforms your Zoo into a living storybook, complete with some of your favorite characters brought to life, fun music and a safe place for trick-or-treating for kids 11 and under. This party experience is designed to give you all the kooky you love with none of the spooky.

Your party price now includes

ALL Boo at the Zoo rides, attractions and parking!

Enjoy a spin on the Spooktacular Carousel. Get up close to REAL creepy crawlies at the walk-through, free-crawling “not-so-itsy-bitsy” Spider House. Hear the tale of the legendary Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow — all FREE with your party admission!

Our reduced nightly capacity eliminates the scary traffic delays when arriving for the party. Parking is easy and convenient in the Zoo’s lot and included for party guests!

We take safety seriously!
For updates to health policies
and possible mask requirements
before your visit, please visit
LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/TOGETHER



*Celebrating 40 years of treats
(and maybe a few tricks)*



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and District 10
Residents

Special Thanks to



ALL THE FUN FOR ONE GREAT PRICE

Your party ticket includes parking and all of our fun rides and attractions!

Ticket Options

Admission tickets are required for all guests ages 3 and older.

Members	\$6.00
Non-members	\$12.50
Age 2 & Under	FREE
Meijer Anytime Tickets*	\$10.50

Boo at the Zoo is held rain or shine; no refunds or exchanges.

To help us manage our reduced capacity, all tickets must be purchased on the Zoo's website in advance or at a participating Meijer location.

Make sure the email on your member profile is up-to-date so you are able to receive your tickets.

* A limited number of Meijer Anytime Tickets can be purchased from participating Meijer stores beginning Sept. 26. Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/meijer for a list of stores.

HOW TO ORDER MEMBER TICKETS

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

1. Click BOO AT THE ZOO TICKETS.
2. Select your date, time & quantity and add to cart.
3. Enter your personal info and CHECK "I'm a Member!" Then enter your member number (located on your membership card). Email ZooMembership@louisvilleky.gov if you need help.
4. Click apply for the member discounted rate.
5. Complete your order and accept terms and conditions.
6. Have a spooktacular time!



Allergy-Friendly Night

Thursday, Oct. 21

This special night will feature peanut-free treat booths and added non-food treats like stickers, pencils and more. Children with allergies can receive an allergy-friendly option at each of our booths.



Hot Tips

- During Boo at the Zoo, the Zoo closes early to daytime guests. Gates close at 3 p.m. (visit until 4 p.m.)
- 5 – 6:30 p.m. is our most popular party time and tickets could sell out fast! Consider a later time. The Zoo comes to life after the sun sets, with twinkling lights, hanging lanterns and carved pumpkins.
- If you are looking for a safe place to trick-or-treat for kids with allergies, join our Allergy-Friendly Night, Thursday, October 21.
- Wear comfy shoes. The trick-or-treat trail is approximately 1.3 miles long or around 3,330 steps!
- Trick-or-treating is for kids 11 and under. Be sure to bring your trick-or-treat bag. Reusable treat bags will be available for purchase at the Gift Shop for \$2 (while supplies last).
- Boo at the Zoo is an outdoor event that is rain or shine; bring rain gear if the skies look gray!
- Should extreme weather conditions require that we cancel, notice will be posted on our social media accounts and website.

Costume Dos and Don'ts

- **Do** get creative; we love seeing your homemade costumes.
- **Do** include your strollers in your theme.
- **Do** get everyone in on the fun! Some of our favorite costumes include the whole family.
- Adults should refrain from wearing masks that cover their full face. It can be scary for little ones!
- **Don't** wear/bring balloons as part of your costume. One of your balloons could get away and end up with our animal ambassadors; that could be very dangerous for them. We know balloons can be fun, but they're scary for our animal friends!
- This is a family-friendly party, adults should refrain from wearing "scary" costumes.

Treats for Moms & Dads!

Guests 21 and older can unwind with an ice cold beer or glass of wine. There will be several craft beers on tap to choose from and frozen sangrias available at Bomassa and Wild Burger (*additional fees apply*).



Party Attractions

Be sure to check out these fun party activities included with your Boo at the Zoo admission!

All attractions are subject to the cooperation of weather, animals and maintenance.

Spooktacular Carousel

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

"Not-so-itsy-bitsy" Spider House

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

Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow

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!



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 Boo at the Zoo! Our thanks to the entire "cast" and "crew" with special thanks to our 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 FAQs — Visit LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/HALLOWEEN





party animal



Proud to sponsor Boo at the Zoo
at the Louisville Zoo.

EVENTS

2021 Season presented by



CINEMA SAFARI: BEE MOVIE

September 10 Enter the Zoo from 5 – 8 p.m. * | Movie at 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy a movie under the stars at the wildest theater in town. Watch your favorite movies on our giant inflatable screen. Snacks and other refreshments will be available for purchase. Don't forget to pack your blanket or lawn chairs! Enjoy the sights and sounds as the animals settle in for the night, then join us in the field at 8 p.m. for this family favorite film. Some animals may not be viewable during your evening visit as they adhere to their normal nightly routine and may choose to retire to their indoor spaces. Attractions like the Glacier Run Splash Park, Ropes Course, and animal feeding/ interaction attractions will close at their normal time. For more information, visit louisvillezoo.org/today.

Out of an abundance of caution, there will not be any pre-movie games.

More info at LouisvilleZoo.org/movies

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

Flutter Fest

September 10 – 18

NEW for 2021 Join the Zoo all week long to learn about butterflies and our other pollinator pals.

The fun starts on Friday, September 10 when we kick off the week with a special showing of the Bee Movie. Then visit us throughout the next week (Monday – Friday) between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. to learn all about butterflies and other pollinators from our friends at Idlewild Butterfly Farm and Insectarium. Enjoy awesome displays and ask the experts all the butterfly questions you've been fluttering to know, then pick up a take-home craft (while supplies last). Join us on Saturday, September 18 at 11:30 a.m. for a special question & answer session with our butterfly experts and visit the butterfly house one last time before the fun flutters away. Want to attract butterflies and other pollinators to your garden at home? Join us for one of our new classes to learn all about pollinator gardens and take home a milkweed plant to start your home habitat! Visit louisvillezoo.org/butterflies to learn more about our new week full of fun and follow us on Facebook for special butterfly videos all week long!

As an accredited Zoo, and following the AZA Monarch SAFE program recommendations, **the Zoo will not be hosting a tag and release program.** To find out more about SAFE and how you can help save animals from extinction, please visit aza.org/safe-species.

Monarchs and Mimosas

Saturday, September 11 from 9 – 10 a.m.

\$25 per person (adults 21+)

Start your day with a refreshing cocktail as you learn how to create your own pollinator garden from our experts. This special 21+ class includes tips on the types of plants that are most beneficial to attracting pollinators, how to identify the best location and type of garden for your space, and how to manage your plants to provide the best habitat year round. Guests will be able to enjoy mimosas and pastries during the class and then take home their very own milkweed plant to start their own habitat at home.

Habitat Heroes

Saturday, September 18 from 9 – 10 a.m.

\$10 per registration (up to 4 people)

Join us before the Zoo opens for this special family-focused class about pollinator gardens. Our experts will be on hand to share gardening tips including which plants to select, what type of garden is best for your space and how to identify where to begin your garden. You can even learn more about which pollinators and other critters you might spot living in your new backyard habitat. Each group of 4 will receive one milkweed plant to start their own garden at home!

For additional information and to register for these classes, visit LouisvilleZoo.org/butterflies





Presented by **NORTON AUDUBON HOSPITAL**

Additional Support



Saturday, November 13 at 8 a.m.

Dash over and join us for the 28th annual Throo the Zoo 5K run/walk. Enjoy the wildest 5K in town as you race "Throo" the Zoo alongside some of your favorite Zoo residents like giraffes, rhinos, flamingos, bears and more! All participants receive a free cotton t-shirt (with the opportunity to upgrade to a tech shirt for an additional fee), commemorative finisher medal and a ticket to the Zoo so you can return and enjoy your visit at a much slower pace.

Register today before the price goes up!

Swag's Sport Shoes Costume Contest

Let your imagination run wild and dress in your favorite animal costume! Runners with the most creative costume will receive a prize package from the Zoo and our sponsors. No advance registration is required for the costume contest. Judging will take place online after the race via social media. Just visit the costume contest display after the race to take a photo, then submit it on the Zoo's Facebook post on November 13.

Advance registration starts as low as \$30

Online registration and additional details available at

LouisvilleZoo.org/race21

VIRTUAL RUN
Unable to make the race on Nov. 13? You can still support your Zoo and get your run in via our Virtual 5K. We'll even ship your finisher medal to commemorate the occasion!



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 738,000 this past year, your brand has the potential to reach a significant number of families in the region.

For info on how you can become a Zoo corporate sponsor, contact ZooSponsorship@LouisvilleKy.gov.

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SAFARI DAY CAMPS

Cost: \$70 Members / \$75 Nonmembers

Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. per day

Ages: 6 – 8 and 9 – 11

With smaller class sizes, enhanced experiences and safety measures, our new in-person camp programs are the perfect choice for families who want to give their child a fun, safe, camp experience this school year.

SAVE THE DATE
Winter Camp 2021
Check our website for
details coming soon!

VIRTUAL PROGRAM: CONSERVATION & CONVERSATIONS

Hours: Offered on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Ages: 13+

Cost: \$10 per device, advance registration required

Join the conversation! Connect with us to explore a variety of environmental and conservation issues. Each month, participants will receive a discussion guide with book, film and podcast recommendations, and access to a 60-minute live virtual discussion with Zoo educators. We hope to include community members of all ages in our discussion of conservation issues that are affecting the way we live here in Louisville and around the globe. Some topics may feature guest speakers!

Sept. 22: The Human Animal

Humans are the biggest conservation threat facing the planet today. Learning about how we as Homo sapiens developed and how we as a species have affected the ecosystems around us can improve our conservation efforts going forward. This month, our conservation conversation will focus on exploring human beings and what we can do to help our planet recover.

Oct. 27: Green Burial

Decomposition is an important part of the life cycle of our planet. Join us to learn how human decomposition contributes to the cycle. October's conversation will focus on green burial and the way our funeral traditions have changed over time to bring us closer to or further away from nature.

Nov. 17: Restoration Ecology

Restoration ecology is the science of humans repairing the ecosystems that we have disturbed or destroyed. As humans interested in the preservation of our planet and its wildlife, the restoration of habitat and the return of biodiversity is one of our largest responsibilities to the planet. Join us this month to discuss current restoration ecology projects around the world.

Dec. 22: Biomes

Biomes are communities of flora and fauna (plants and animals) adapted to a specific climate. They are usually divided into five categories: aquatic, grassland, forest, desert and tundra, but can be split into smaller subcategories like fresh or salt water, temperate forest or taiga. In our December conservation conversation, we will choose a biome to explore in detail, including discussion about the importance of biodiversity in successful ecosystems.

Fall Break Camps

Get ready for a howling good time as we explore animal survival with a storybook twist!

Sept. 29: What Big Eyes You Have

Do cats have the best vision in the animal kingdom? Can dogs only see in black and white? Separate fact from fiction as we explore how animals use their sense of sight to survive.

Sept. 30: What Big Ears You Have

We're all ears when it comes to learning about how animals use their sense of hearing to survive. Explore how the size and shape of an animal's ears help them do more than just listen!

Oct. 1: What Big Teeth You Have

You are what you eat! Learn how animal teeth can tell you how they live and what they eat; plus explore how some animals use their teeth for a lot more than chewing.



SLOTH ENCOUNTERS

Available Beginning Oct. 1, 2021

Reservations Start: Sept. 15 at 10 a.m.

Cost: \$80 per person (Zoo admission not included)
Based on availability, check our web for dates & details. Join us for this unique opportunity to come nose-to-nose with our newest ambassador animals: the Linnaeus's two-toed sloths! Learn about the conservation of their species and discover firsthand how our keepers care for these beloved animals.

Each encounter lasts up to 45 minutes and includes preparation of the sloth diet, an up-close encounter with our Linnaeus's two-toed sloth and a keepsake. Participants will have the opportunity to touch the sloth, animal permitting, and take a photo. For more information about the sloth encounter program, visit LouisvilleZoo.org/sloth.

SIPPY CUP STROLL

Hours: Weekly on Fridays or Saturdays beginning Sept. 4

Ages: 2 – 5 with an adult

Hours: 9:30 – 11 a.m.

Pricing (adult & child pair): \$25 Members: / \$45 Nonmembers *(includes Zoo admission)*

Join us for this program specifically designed for young minds! Enjoy an early morning guided walk through the Zoo while looking at animals related to the week's theme, followed by play time in the Cub House presented by PNC. This event includes a story reading, a craft, free play and age appropriate activities.

Sept. 4 & Oct. 16: Cool Cats

Get ready to wake up with a roar and learn about some fantastic felines! Visit our lions, Amur tigers, and snow leopards on our morning stroll.

Sept. 10 & Oct. 22: Playful Primates

Watch some playful primates while you enjoy some fresh morning air! Visit our gorillas, colobus monkeys, and lemurs.

Sept. 18 & Oct. 30: Beautiful Birds

Let's hang out with some colorful birds! Visit the exotic birds inside our Islands Pavilion Exhibit as well as our blue macaws and lorikeets.

Sept. 24 & Nov. 5: Gentle Giants

Join us for a big morning adventure. You are in for a grand time visiting our rhinos, giraffes and elephants!

Oct. 2 & Nov. 13: Big Bears

It's time to be bear-y curious! Visit our polar and grizzly bears at Glacier Run and then join us for continued fun afterwards.

Oct. 8 & Nov. 19: Lively Lizards

Nails, scales and lizard tails! Visit our HerpAquarium to learn more about our American alligator, Komodo dragon and Gila monsters.

SMALL ANIMAL MEET & GREET

Available Oct. 1, 2021

Reservations Start: Sept. 15 at 10 a.m.

Cost: Private encounter for a group of up to 6 individuals, \$240 members / \$260 nonmembers. Admission included.

Dates and Hours: Based on availability, check our website for dates and details. Join us for a private animal experience in our Snow Leopard Cub House and learn about our animal ambassador program as you meet some of the animals that help us connect with guests of all ages!

As a part of the program, your group will learn how our keepers care for our animals and will create an enrichment experience for one of our ambassadors. Each small animal meet-and-greet includes a 30-minute encounter and 30-minute free play in the Cubhouse. This program is ideal for groups or families with young children.



Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/education to make reservations for all programs!



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LouisvilleZoo.org/foodapplication

VOLUNTEERS By Diane Taylor, Coordinator of Volunteers

VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Every year, the Louisville Zoo honors the incredible work of our dedicated volunteers. Several of these volunteers deserve special acknowledgement.

2021 DIANE TAYLOR SPIRIT AWARD WINNER

Wanda & William Jackson

Wanda and William have shared their time, talent and passion with the Louisville Zoo over the past 20 years. They started volunteering at the Zoo during our Halloween event in 2001. They then joined the Docent Program in 2004 and went on to become greeters in 2008. Wanda and William love volunteering at the Zoo. They enjoy interacting with Zoo guests and employees, and in doing so, epitomize the Zoo's mission to "better the bond between people and our planet."



2020 DIANE TAYLOR SPIRIT AWARD WINNER

Mark Goeing

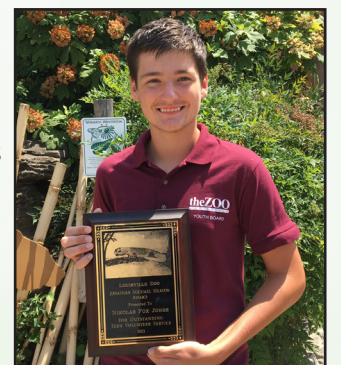
Mark has displayed contagious enthusiasm and incredible creativity as a Zoo volunteer over the past 5 years. The HerpAquarium staff nominated him with this praise: "He is always ready to jump in and help out with anything. We can plug him in anywhere and he's ready to help!" Mark began his Zoo journey as an employee before the HerpAquarium was even built and gave many years of dedicated service before shifting to a volunteer position. Thank you, Mark, for your years of service to the Zoo and our community. The staff members who nominated him said it best: "We're very lucky to have very good, dependable volunteers!"



2021 JONATHAN MICHAEL HEATON AWARD WINNER

Nikolas F. Jones

Nikolas has quickly become an exceptional member of the Louisville Zoo community. He became a member of the Louisville Zoo Youth Board in 2018, and now serves as its president. He has volunteered in the Giraffe Area where he assisted keepers with cleaning various animal enclosures and preparing meals and enrichment for our animal ambassadors. Nikolas takes great pleasure in providing care to the animals at the Zoo. His leadership has positively impacted Zoo guests and staff alike.

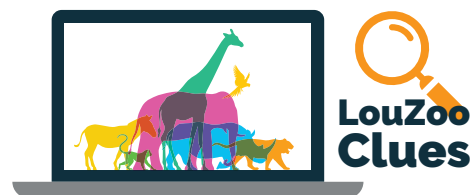


2020 JONATHAN MICHAEL HEATON AWARD WINNER

Andrew John Chumbley

Andrew is the kind of volunteer who helps eagerly, regardless of what task he is doing. The staff at the HerpAquarium give high praise to Andrew: "It doesn't matter if it's a stinky anaconda or a smiling lazy gecko, he's ready to jump in and help out. He helps out in any way he can. He's a real asset and we hope to have him back soon." Andrew started college last year at Murray State after graduating from Floyd Central High School, and we suspect he will continue to impress us and his professors with his hard work and passion.





Thank you!

Friends of the Louisville Zoo thank you for going out on a limb and supporting Zoofari, Back to Brew 2021, Sip N' Stroll, and LouZoo Clues.

We simply couldn't do it without you.

Your support will directly contribute to the success of the Louisville Zoo, its animal ambassadors, and education programs that provide meaningful moments for children and adults from around the region.

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Special thanks to the many other generous silent auction, Mix and Mingle, Back to Brew, Sip N' Stroll, and LouZoo Clues donors.

PHILANTHROPY

JOHN WALCZAK'S LEGACY AND THE ZOO'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY

By Kelly Grether, Development Director



The Louisville Zoo has been, and will continue to be, the trusted experts on animal care and the educators for the community about species conservation, environmental education and sustainability. This is our mission — the heart and soul of what we do — something many have heard Zoo Director John Walczak talk about often during his 36-year career at the Louisville Zoo.

To expand on delivering our mission and deepening connections between people and animals, we are planning to renovate our MetaZoo education facility which houses our current animal ambassador program and their caretakers. The animals in this program are introduced to students, adults and families during education programs, summer camps, events, community festivals and outreach sessions. While holding spaces for these animals adheres to accreditation standards put forth by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), looking ahead, new holding areas will be necessary to continue to meet guidelines.

Your Louisville Zoo is 100% invested in providing the animals that are housed here with world-class care and enrichment and are constantly working to expand efforts to support a species' overall well-being. Therefore, this is an exciting moment for us — and the community. The planned \$1.6 million MetaZoo renovations will help the Zoo meet AZA guidelines while also contributing to the Zoo's ability to engage community members through on-site, virtual and off-site interactions with animal ambassadors. To date, the Zoo has received

nearly \$870,000 in cash donations toward this project.

Many have asked about ways to honor and celebrate John's 36 years of leadership, accomplishments and service to your Louisville Zoo. As you read earlier in this magazine, the transformation and growth of the Zoo under John's leadership is remarkable. He has been involved in every aspect of change and always kept animal welfare, safety and conservation education at the core of all decisions he made for the Zoo.

As a fitting tribute to John's legacy, we invite you to consider a gift towards these necessary MetaZoo / Animal Ambassador Program renovations in his honor. This project allows the Zoo to update housing and enrichment for our animal ambassadors, and expands facilities for the Zoo's education staff, programs and classes. Through continued conservation education with animal ambassadors, we will have the opportunity to introduce more of the community — people of all ages — to the wonders of the natural world and our place in it.

The Zoo and the Zoo Foundation Board are hoping to celebrate John's tenure with a successful fundraising initiative toward something which is near and dear to him. While all gifts toward this project are valued and

very appreciated, all donors with a donation of \$1,000 or more will be listed on a donor recognition panel near the MetaZoo upon completion of the project.

If you are interested in learning more, contact Kelly Grether at (502) 238-5615 or Kelly.grether@louisvilleky.gov. You can also make a gift directly in honor of John to celebrate his retirement and accomplishments by visiting LouisvilleZoo.org/John.



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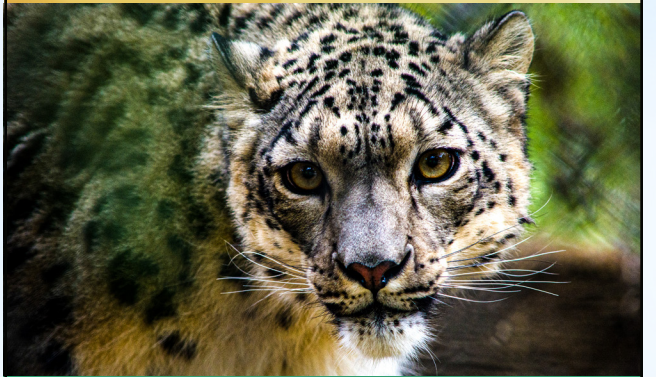
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A close-up photograph of a sloth hanging from a thick, brown tree branch. The sloth's long, shaggy fur is a mix of light tan and dark brown. Its large, dark eyes are looking directly at the camera. The background is dark and out of focus, showing more of the tree's structure.

You've waited long enough...

Sloth Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Starts Oct. 1, 2021

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