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FALL 2022

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Boo at the Zoo at the Louisville Zoo.

Autumn is a spooktacular, flutterrific, species-saving time at your Zoo! It's also a beautiful time to re-connect with the natural world, unplug from the day-to-day and enjoy making memories with loved ones. We have lots of exciting news to share including updates about your favorite animals, upcoming events and more.

A few of our featured stories:



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BEAUTY AND THE BATS

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Chris Florence heads up the Zoo's Black-Footed Ferret (BFF) Conservation Program



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BOO AT THE ZOO

All the information you need to enjoy a fun, safe and memorable Halloween

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. 18, 2022
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (exit by 6 p.m.)

Sept. 19 – March 17, 2023
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (exit by 5 p.m.)

Early Close for Brew at the Zoo
Saturday, Aug. 27, 2022
Zoo closes at 2 p.m. (exit by 3 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

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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).

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FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Autumn is such an exciting season. You can feel that crisp energy in the air. The pace of the world seems to speed up as we celebrate the harvest of summer and prepare for cooler weather. We see this flutter of activity in the nature all around us, as the leaves acquire their party colors and hibernator animals race to store away food for the approaching winter.

Nowhere is such vitality more apparent than at your Louisville Zoo, where we're celebrating the 40th anniversary of Boo at the Zoo in 2022!

Last year, I experienced my first amazing Boo at the Zoo, just as I was starting. What's so impressive to me is how spending an October evening at the Zoo with family in a safe, fun and inclusive environment has become such an inextricable part of our region's heritage. Everyone has a story to tell about Halloween at the Zoo, and I love meeting parents who enjoyed Boo as children and are now bringing their offspring to this terrific event.

Every species has a story as well, and several fascinating ones come to mind this time of year. Each year, monarch butterflies make a remarkable round-trip migration between the U.S. and Canada to Mexico. Sadly, these exquisite, important pollinators have just been declared endangered by the IUCN, and it's never been more crucial to get involved in protecting their future.

Also on the move this fall are our black-footed ferrets (BFF), several of whom will travel west as part of their extraordinary conservation, breeding and release program. I'm so pleased you get to meet our head BFF keeper, Chris Florence, in this issue of Trunkline. Chris is carrying on in the footsteps of Guy Graves, a pioneer in the efforts to save this rarest North American mammal from extinction. BFFs have been a flagship conservation program for the Zoo since 1991 and a tremendous source of pride for everyone.

By the way, I love that black-footed ferrets are already wearing their own "Zorro" masks for Halloween!

This October is a special time for my wife, Laura, and me as we celebrate one year in Louisville. Everyone has been so generous in welcoming us both. Reflecting on this exciting first year, I am proud to be a part of Louisville Zoo's incredible, indelible legacy — a legacy so deeply rooted in the hearts and memories of our members and their families.

I hope you'll join us for all our autumn celebrations. Every visit is a chance to start new stories, make new memories and experience something awesome.

See you soon at the Zoo!



Dan

Your Zoo's Director

Standing outside the BFF "clean room" with Chris Florence and friends



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. Members know there's plenty to do all year long! Fall is a great time to get outside and experience all your Zoo has to offer. Fairer weather and cooler temps mean active animals and memorable moments with your favorite animal ambassadors. While we are always here for you, we all know some days are better than others for catching that perfect photo or sharing your family memories on your favorite social media channel. Be sure you get out and ZOO something different during these cooler autumn days.

A Great Experience

Would you like 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? Take advantage of our new EXPERIENCE benefits package. The EXPERIENCE benefits package includes six one time use guest passes, unlimited carousel rides, two lorikeet feedings, two giraffe feedings and an invitation to one of our exclusive EXPERIENCE events. These after-hours EXPERIENCES are sure to thrill family members of all ages and are included with the Family Experience, Family Dual Experience and donor-level memberships. Be sure to come out and enjoy all the perks of your membership.

Not already an experience level member? You can upgrade anytime and begin enjoying the added benefits of the EXPERIENCE level by stopping by any ticketing window or calling (502) 459-2287.

Learn more about these programs at louisvillezoo.org/experience.



Membership Card App

Our app for your smart phone stores your membership card electronically. This is a free app that allows us to scan and verify your membership barcode from your mobile device. All you need to do is download the free Louisville Zoo membership app. After inputting your information, the Home Screen will show as "unverified." Call (502) 459-2287 or pop by any ticketing window to receive your verification code.

Once your membership is verified on the app, you no longer need to carry another card around with you. You can download the app on multiple devices, one for each named adult on your card. This app will expedite your entry in the Zoo and will conveniently let you know when it's time to renew, too!

Stay Connected

Be sure to follow all of our social media channels for the latest info on what's happening at your zoo all year round.

And don't forget to keep your member info up-to-date! We send out regular emails with special offers, happening info, animal news and more. If you haven't been receiving them, let us know, call the membership office at (502) 459-2287 or stop by any ticketing window on your next visit so we can add your email to your profile and you can stay in the loop about everything here at your Zoo.



CINEMA SAFARI

September 9: Encanto

Enter the Zoo from 5 – 8 p.m.
Movie starts at sundown

Movie nights are FREE to Louisville Zoo members and only \$5 after 5 p.m. for non-members.

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! For more information, visit louisvillezoo.org/movies



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The Louisville Zoo is pleased to offer members quarterly 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.



and the Bats





We know that all animals play a role in sustaining the

many ecosystems that make up the Earth. But we might look past some creatures, while others make us want to run past! For autumn — and, of course, Halloween — we're celebrating two fascinating flyers that are sometimes underappreciated and often misunderstood.

Monarchs and the Great Migration

In Kentucky, we have front row seats to cheer on the monarch butterflies as they make their annual trek from Canada and the northern U.S. to Mexico for the winter. Some will travel up to 3,000 miles — spreading pollen along the way. That's a lot of pollinated flowers over a lot of miles!

Pollinators like butterflies, bees, birds and even some bats, carry pollen grains as they move from plant to plant, helping more than 80 percent of the world's flowering plants to reproduce. Not only do these plants provide about a third of the world's food supply, they also support healthy ecosystems by cleaning the air, stabilizing the soil and protecting other wildlife from severe weather.

The Louisville Zoo has been active in pollinator conservation education



Monarchs and Milkweed planting



Milkweed Garden outside the MetaZoo

since 2017, when our Butterflies n' Blooms exhibit opened. Soon after, the Zoo launched Flutter Fest, which celebrates the monarch butterfly and its annual fall migration.

Worldwide, the IUCN just added monarchs to the Red List of endangered species. Although they have yet to be declared endangered in the U.S., their numbers have been declining rapidly in North America. In 2019, the AZA added the monarch butterfly to its S.A.F.E. program, which coordinates collaboration among AZA member institutions to "Save Animals from Extinction." The Louisville Zoo joined the AZA monarch S.A.F.E. program in 2020.

According to Matt Lahm, Assistant Curator of Conservation Education, protecting pollinators requires three Ps: Passion, Partners and Patience.

"It can be hard to see how the changes we make now will affect the future," he says. "It takes about three years for a native wildflower garden to mature. In the meantime, monarchs go through four generations in one year. So the butterflies who stop here on their way to Mexico are actually the great-great-grandparents of the butterflies we'll see next year."

In other words, we need to plant monarch waystations today to be ready in three years for twelfth-

generation butterflies to pass through our region — and every generation after.

That's why the Zoo is working with partners to develop pollinator gardens throughout the community. Four sites are up and growing: Bellarmine University, Slaughter Elementary and Seven County Services on West Broadway and Brooklawn. Other seasonal activities at the Zoo, like Flutter Fest and Monarchs and Mimosas, encourage children and adults to create pollinator-friendly spaces in their own backyards.

"There's so much we can be doing," Matt says. "And if we can't make changes now, it will only get harder."

Find more information about pollinators, programs and partners at louisvillezoo.org/butterflies.

Bats: Friend or Foe?

There are more than 1,400 species of bats in the world. They are the second largest order of mammals behind that other Halloween favorite, rodents.

While some bats act as pollinators when they flit from plant to plant, most are insectivores or frugivores — they eat bugs or fruits. (Vampire bats are actually sanguivores, but we'll get to that shortly.)

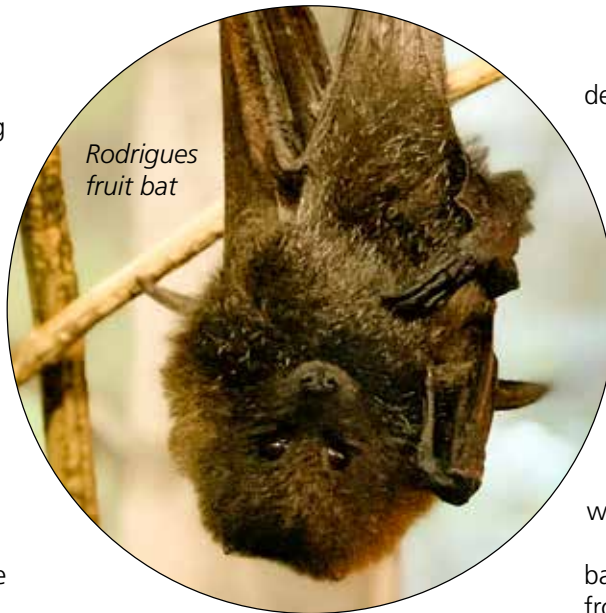
Insectivores, like the bats found in Kentucky, save U.S. farmers an estimated \$23 billion each year by reducing crop damage and limiting the need for pesticides. Although some bats are plentiful, three of the 16 species in Kentucky are federally endangered. An average bat can eat 1,000 to 1,200 mosquitoes in a single hour. That's a checkmark in the "friend" column!

Fruit bats, which are typically some of the larger of the bat species, are an integral part of the ecosystems they inhabit. Not surprisingly, they eat fruit! But it's what happens after they digest the fruit that makes them important helpers. The fruit seeds come out in their poop, and they disperse them on the forest floor as they roost and fly, helping regenerate plant life.

The Louisville Zoo has long been involved in bat conservation, particularly through participation with the Rodrigues fruit bat Species Survival Plan, an AZA program that helps ensure the survival of selected species in zoos and aquariums.

Not long ago, Rodrigues fruit bats were considered the rarest bats in the world. Although still endangered, their population in the wild has increased thanks to in-situ conservation efforts on the remote island of Rodrigues in the Indian Ocean. Like so many island animal species, they are particularly susceptible to habitat destruction due to human encroachment.

At the Zoo, you'll find several Rodrigues fruit bats in the Islands Pavilion. And while it might not be your first instinct, Mammal Curator Jill



Rodrigues fruit bat

Katka recommends you get up close for a good look.

"They have a cool hooked thumb on the end of their wings to climb around on the tree branches," she explains.

When they eat, they clasp fruit with their dexterous fingers while hanging upside down by their feet. Unlike their insect-chomping Kentucky cousins who use echolocation to target prey, Rodrigues fruit bats rely on their keen sense of smell and eyesight to find food.

But most importantly, Katka says with obvious affection, "they're really important for forest health and regrowth, and everything else in their ecosystem depends on them."

"And they're actually pretty cute," she adds. "Their faces look like little fox faces."

Which brings us to...

Vampire bats, and whether they deserve their dark reputation.

First, it's hard to believe these tiny creatures about the length of a human thumb can cause so much apprehension. Rather than swoop down on their prey, they are more likely to jump at its ankles.

That said, they can move quickly and feed on prey much larger than themselves, including cows, pigs, horses and birds. And yes, they bite their prey and lap (not suck) the blood from the wound.

However, the proteins in vampire bats' saliva that keep their prey's blood from clotting led to the development of blood-thinning medications used to help prevent strokes and heart attacks in humans.

Sure, they live in caves and other "creepy" dwellings like tree hollows and mine shafts in Mexico and Central and South America (nowhere near Kentucky — except in the Zoo's HerpAquarium!) They're also wonders of anatomical adaptation, agile on the ground but also able to take off vertically in milliseconds. No other bat can do that.

Wherever you land on the friend or foe debate, it's easy to see why humans find all bats to be so "inspirational" through the centuries.

Maybe the better question is *fact or myth?*



Vampire bat

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Meet Our BFFs' New BFF:

Chris Florence



For someone who used to jump on crocodiles, you'd think Chris Florence wouldn't be intimidated by a few 2-pound ferrets.

"They're feisty," he says, holding up his hand. "And I have the bite marks to prove it."

Chris doesn't mind a few bites, considering he used to handle reptiles as a keeper in the HerpAquarium. But now, as lead keeper of the Zoo's black-footed ferret conservation program, he has a daunting task in front of him.

"Every kit produced could potentially be released in the wild, or a female might be kept for breeding," Chris explains. "The numbers really matter here."

That's because black-footed ferrets (BFFs) were thought to be extinct just 40 years ago. In the early 1900s, there may have been as many as 5 million BFFs zipping about the Great Plains from Canada to Mexico. Between then and 1980, habitat conversion and disease took their toll — repeatedly — until there were just 18 BFFs in existence in 1986.

Almost Too Late

Black-footed ferrets primarily feed on prairie dogs, which are often considered a nuisance by farmers and ranchers. Huge numbers of prairie

dogs have been eradicated over the years. Considered a keystone species, prairie dogs are the food source for several predators across the prairie ecosystem — not just BFFs but also eagles, owls, badgers and coyotes.

"Every species has a purpose," Chris says. "It may not be very evident, and you may not know why until they're gone. Then it's too late."

Thankfully, it wasn't too late for BFFs. After taking the remaining 18 into captivity, U.S. Fish and Wildlife established a breeding program to save the species from extinction. Louisville Zoo, along with four other

AZA-accredited facilities, were selected to participate. The National Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center in Colorado is a pre-conditioning site where BFFs practice hunting prairie dogs before being released.

Chris is well aware that managing the program at the Zoo is a huge responsibility. "It's really a miracle these animals are even here," he says, meaning not just in Louisville but anywhere.



Pam Hall and Chris Florence prepare a ferret for transfer

To protect this extremely rare mammal, the Zoo's BFFs live in an isolated "clean room" that only a few staff enter. Several rows of bi-level pens are designed to simulate prairie dog burrows. Since one goal of the program is to re-introduce BFFs to their native habitat, Chris and keeper Pam Hall keep as hands-off as possible.

They do find creative ways to provide enrichment to encourage nesting and hunting instincts — hence the bites. When Chris feeds the BFFs on "Rat Day" (which is exactly what it sounds like), he tugs at the serving tongs a few times to make the ferret work for the tasty treat.

Ramping Up to Save Species

Taking over from Guy Graves, who was the original keeper for the program until his retirement in 2020, Chris is energized by what a unique opportunity he has.

"This is a one-of-a-kind program" he says with a proud grin. "There are only five other places you can do this."

Chris started as a volunteer in 1997, but his dedication to the Louisville Zoo began much earlier.

"My mom bought a membership when I was little and every Sunday we were out in front, waiting for the Zoo to open," Chris says, then admits: "When the HerpAquarium first opened, I memorized what animals were in what exhibits."

Years later, he would be caring for some of those same animals.

Before becoming a keeper, Chris worked in Guest Services and the Commissary. He's grateful that he got to assist Guy one summer early on in his career. He even accompanied Guy on a ferret transfer to Colorado that year.

Despite all his experience, though, Chris admits there was a big learning curve. He's glad he has a lot of help — not only from Pam and the Zoo's medical team, but also the participants in the Black-Footed Ferret Species Survival Plan (SSP). Through monthly calls, Chris has access to a community of nutritionists, dieticians, vets, keepers, volunteers



and reproduction specialists. Not to mention 40 years' worth of research!

"I hope we can maintain what we have while we keep learning," he says. "Science is always evolving, so we have to keep moving."

Chris is clearly learning fast. This year, his second managing the BFF program, Louisville produced 45 kits (baby ferrets). Females only breed once a year in the spring, providing just a short window when they can be paired with a male. Of course, the ferrets don't always cooperate.

Not surprisingly, it takes a lot of work to bring a species back from extinction. In the wild or in zoos, the black-footed ferret only has a lifespan of three to four years. And the conditions that drove BFFs close to extinction in the first place — disease and human encroachment — are still prevalent in their homeland.

While 150-200 BFFs are released at 28 reintroduction sites each year,

the numbers grow slowly. Biologists estimate it will take 3,000 adult BFFs in the wild to make the population self-sustaining. Currently, there are about 370.

Luckily, Chris is patient. Watching the ferrets through the large picture window in the keeper office, he can't help but laugh affectionately. "They're just big goofballs. For an animal that sleeps 22 hours a day, they love to dance and roll around when they're awake. I could watch them all the time."

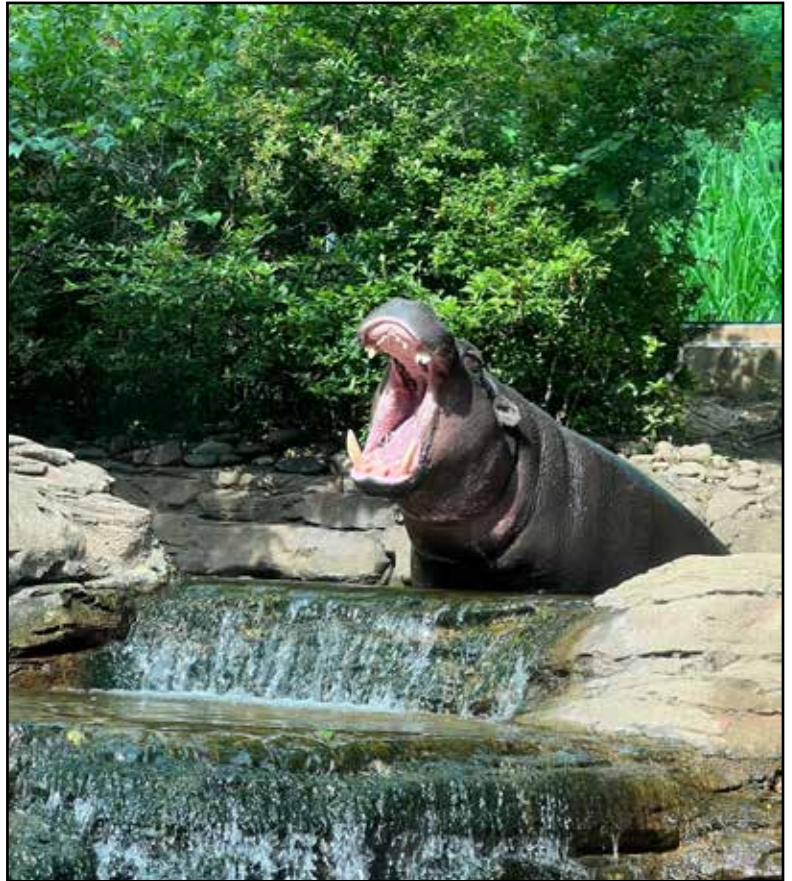
Although the Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center is not open to the public, you can visit with Chekhov, our BFF animal ambassador, in the MetaZoo.



The summertime is soon to depart but we have some exciting news to heat up your autumn season. Read below to learn about the latest and greatest Zoo news.

Hip-Hippo-Hooray!

The Louisville Zoo recently welcomed Zemora, a 5-year-old female pygmy hippo, to Gorilla Forest. Zemora comes to the Louisville Zoo from the Jackson Zoo in Mississippi. She's enjoying soaking in the smaller pools in the upper area of Hippo Falls. One of her favorite treats right now is uncooked yams. She joins Maji, the Zoo's 28-year-old male pygmy hippo, in exhibit rotation until temperatures change in late October/early November. As cooler weather arrives, Maji and Zemora will move behind-the-scenes to enjoy their indoor bedroom pools. Come and see them while the warmer weather lasts.



A Veteran Associate Veterinarian

A new associate veterinarian has arrived at the Zoo: Dr. Erica Lipanovich! Dr. Lipanovich has worked at numerous Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited facilities, including the Denver Zoo, Kansas City Zoo, Dickerson Park Zoo, Oregon Zoo and most recently, Massachusetts's Buttonwood Park Zoo. She was also a veterinarian team member for the Micronesia Avifauna Conservation Program. Dr. Lipanovich will join Senior Veterinarian Dr. Zoli Gyimesi and will work within the Zoo's Animal Health Center to provide comprehensive medical and surgical care to the Zoo's diverse animals. collection of 1,100 animals representing 229 species.



Conservation Funds Offer Relief for Animals Impacted by Natural Disasters

Following the devastating western Kentucky tornados in December 2021, the Louisville Zoo offered our guests the opportunity to help animal organizations that were impacted. Thanks to the generosity of our Zoo guests and fans, we are happy to announce that \$2,550 each was sent to the Kentucky Humane Society (KHS) shelters in Marion and Caldwell counties earlier this spring. The shelters are using the money to refurbish kennels with exterior fencing, vaccinate animals on intake and provide food, supplies and crates to families in need.

With the recent flooding in eastern Kentucky, the Zoo again worked with KHS to identify two regional animal shelters to support. They are the Kentucky River Regional Animal Shelter and Floyd County (Kentucky) Animal Shelter. We committed to donate all guest-generated, conservation funds raised during the month of August 2022 to help families and their pets. The Zoo will continue to work with KHS to monitor the needs of the area.

A Mini "Baby Boom!"

There are many young animal ambassadors to visit this fall as you stroll through the Zoo enjoying the autumn air. The female foal born to zebra Azizi in May is growing well and on exhibit in the Africa zone. Three wallaby joeys can be seen enjoying the "pouch life" in the Australia zone's Wallaroo Walkabout, with one joey being hand-reared behind-the-scenes with help from our valley, hospital, and night keeper teams. You can also see Canada lynx Matilda's two kittens, Ash and Willow, pouncing around their Cats of the America's exhibit. Enjoy the cooler weather and take the time to watch these young ambassadors grow! Don't forget to check the schedule at louisvillezoo.org/today before heading out to the Zoo to see the Walkabout hours. Can't make it to the Zoo? You can follow their updates as part of Zoo Babies presented by Norton Children's at louisvillezoo.org/zoobabies.



Boo at the Zoo

Presented by

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**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 over 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 merry you love with none of the scary.

Your party price 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!

Parking is easy and convenient in the Zoo’s lot and included for party guests!



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Ticket Options

All the Fun for ONE Great Price!

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

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

Members	\$6.50
Non-members	\$13.00
Age 2 & Under	FREE
Meijer Anytime Tickets*	\$11.00

Visit
louisvillezoo.org/boo
to purchase

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

To help us manage capacity so guests can have the best experience, 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. 25. 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, October 20

This special night will feature peanut-free treat booths and added non-food treats like stickers, pencils and more. Children with allergies can receive a teal token redeemable from an allergy-friendly option at our Switch Witch booth.



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 20.
- 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, **don't** wear masks that cover your 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, so please **don't** wear "scary" costumes.



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.



Treats for Grownups

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 cocktails 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!



More Info?

For all the details and a full list of FAQs visit
LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/BOO



Thank YOU!

This popular FUNdraiser provides critical support every year to the Zoo's animal care program, gardens, 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. **Thank you** for supporting your Zoo. There is no party without you!



Flutter Fest

September 12-17

Join us for our 6th annual FlutterFest as we celebrate the fall migration of the monarch butterfly as they travel to their overwintering grounds in the forested mountains in Mexico! Visit us throughout the week (Monday – Friday) between 10 a.m. and Noon 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 and visit the butterfly house one last time before the fun flutters away Sunday, September 18.

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 17, 8:30 –10 a.m.
\$35 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 guidance 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. Wrap your morning up with a visit to our native plant sale, hosted by Ironweed Native Plant Nursery, and purchase some additional plants to start your own habitat at home. To purchase tickets visit louisvillezoo.org/mimosas.

Want to attract butterflies and other pollinators to your garden at home? Visit our Butterflies n' Blooms webpage to learn all about pollinator gardens and ways you help butterflies. Visit louisvillezoo.org/butterflies to learn more.



FALL HAPPY HOURS AT THE ZOO • TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



Join us for an all-new after-hours event at the Zoo! Relax with a cool beverage and delicious appetizers while enjoying exclusive keeper talks and animal interactions in some of your favorite Zoo exhibit spaces. Additional food and beverages will be available for purchase. Space is limited for these exclusive experiences, reserve your tickets early!

September 14 – Butterflies and Brews

Enjoy the special limited release of Mile Wide Beer Co's brew "Reign" supporting monarch butterfly conservation.

October 12 – Booooooeeee

It's scary how much Kentucky likes bourbon! Join us for an adult "treat" without any tricks this Halloween season. Costumes not required! *Animal encounters sponsored by Independence Bank.*

Purchase tickets at
louisvillezoo.org/happy-hour

Tickets will be \$35 each. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
This event is for guests ages 21 and older. No children will be admitted.
There are no refunds, rainchecks or discounts for this special experience.



Follow us for a
chance to win
free stuff!
Check us out
@ThrooTheZoo



Saturday, November 12 at 8 a.m.

Dash over and join us for the 29th 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 animals!

All participants receive a free cotton t-shirt (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.

Virtual Race Option

Unable to make the race on November 12? You can still support your Zoo and get your run in via our Virtual 5K. We'll even ship you a finisher medal to commemorate the occasion!

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 12.

Register today before the price goes up!

Online registration and additional details available at louisvillezoo.org/race

PRESENTED BY



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT



EDUCATION

MULTI DAY SCHOOL BREAK CAMPS

FALL BREAK: September 29 – 30
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily

Members: \$140 / Non-members: \$150
(price includes both days of camp)
Capacity: 15 children per group

Camps are for children that are currently enrolled in school. Families should choose the camp that matches their child's age at the time of the camp.

6-7 YEAR OLDS: THE (NOT SO) BAD GUYS

Learn about some of the "bad guys" from around our Zoo! Discover which animals are deserving of their bad reputation and which animals have really been the good guys all along!

7-8 YEAR OLDS: THIS IS HALLOWEEN

Have you been to Boo at the Zoo? This year get ready to have a Spooktacular time at our camp dedicated to Halloween! Carve pumpkins and get to know some of the creepiest creatures in the animal kingdom.

WINTER BREAK: December 19 – 23
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily

Members: \$350 / Non-members: \$375
Capacity: 15 children per group

6-7 YEAR OLDS: WINTER WORKSHOP

We'll get crafty in this camp that celebrates the makers of the animal kingdom, like beavers, bees, ants and even orangutans! This craft centered camp will let your camper express themselves through various animal themed crafts, as well as creating some beautiful holiday themed crafts which they can use to bring cheer this holiday season!

7-8 YEAR OLDS: POLAR PLUNGE

Everyone knows Santa and his elves live in the arctic tundra at the North Pole; but what about the other animals that call this icy biome home? Learn about seals, polar bears, penguins, snowy owls and more as you discover what animals survive in this seemingly desolate environment!



SINGLE DAY SCHOOL BREAK CAMPS

Oct. 10, Nov. 7, Nov. 8, Nov. 23, Dec. 30
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily

Members: \$70 / Non-members: \$75
Capacity: 15 children per group, per day

Ages 6-8: Each day will feature one theme, but campers will be divided based on age

Get ready for the wildest one-day adventure in town! We've packed the fun of camp into these engaging single day programs that feature our best-of activities from our most popular camps. New to camp? No problem! Single day camps are a great way to introduce your child to the Zoo's camp environment.

Come for one or come for all! Camp activities will vary each day for families who would like to enroll their child in more than one day.

THE ZOO CAMP TOP 5:

Day 1 – Oct. 10: **ZooMazing Race**
Day 2 – Nov. 7: **LegoMania**
Day 3 – Nov. 8: **ZooDunnit**
Day 4 – Nov. 23: **Keeper Camp**
Day 5 – Dec. 30: **Animal Giants**

Full program descriptions available online.



SIPPY CUP STROLL

Weekly on Wednesdays & Fridays: Sept. 5 – Nov. 12
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.; Advance Registration Required.

Members: \$35 / Non-members: \$50 (per session, price includes 1 adult & 1 child)
Single ticket tagalong tickets: \$15.00 per person. Children 2 and younger are free.
Capacity: 12 tickets per session (24 individuals)

Ages: Best suited for children 2-5 years old with a caregiver

Join us for this program specifically designed for young minds! Enjoy an early morning guided walk featuring animal activity stations followed by exclusive play time in the Cub House presented by PNC that includes a story time and hands on activities.

- Sept. 7 & 9; Oct. 12 & 14: **African Mammals** – Take a safari through our African exhibits and start your day with some of the biggest mammals on the planet.
- Sept. 14 & 16; Oct. 19 & 21: **Pinnipeds** – Flap your flippers and join us in watching the Zoo's seals and sea lions! Let's see if we can move like pinnipeds after visiting our pinniped friends at Glacier Run.
- Sept. 21 & 23; Oct. 26 & 28: **Cats** – Join us in September to explore the fascinating cats of North and South America, or in October when we visit with some cool-weather cats like the Amur tiger.
- Sept. 28 & 30; Nov. 2 & 4: **Big Bears** – In September, celebrate Fat Bear Week with us as we learn all about grizzly bears and how they prepare for winter. Then, in November, we'll talk about polar bears and the icy world they call home.
 - Oct. 5 & 7; Nov. 9 & 11: **Primates** – Watch playful primates while you enjoy the fresh morning air! In October, visit our orangutans and siamangs in the mysterious Islands. Come back in November when we'll learn about gorillas, colobus monkeys and lemurs.

EDUCATION

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

Saturday, Sept. 3, Oct. 1 & Nov. 5
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Members: \$45 / Non-members: \$60
(per session, price includes 1 adult & 1 child)
Single ticket tagalong tickets: \$20.00 per person.
Children 2 and younger are free.
Capacity: 30 tickets per session (60 individuals)

Ages: Best suited for children 2-5 years old with a caregiver

Wake up with some of your favorite animals in this program that brings a special look into how our animals start the day. Enjoy an exclusive keeper talk, a variety of breakfast treats, activities and plenty of fun as we say "good morning" to the Zoo.

- Saturday, Sept. 3: **Rise and Shine in Australia**
- Saturday, Oct. 1: **Sun up at Snow Leopards**
- Saturday, Nov. 5: **Good Morning, Islands**



SENSORY FRIENDLY SUNDAYS

Sunday, Sept. 18th & Nov. 20th
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Members: \$25 / Non-members: \$45
(per session, price includes 1 adult & 1 child)
Single ticket tagalong tickets: \$12.50 per person.
Children 2 and younger are free.
Capacity: 30 tickets per session (60 individuals)

Ages: All

Enjoy the Zoo at your own pace during this program for Zoo fans with sensory needs. Participants will enter the Zoo an hour before we open to the public and take a guided Zoo walk to orient themselves in our space. After the walk participants will have the opportunity to participate in fun and educational activities in our MetaZoo Discovery Center which will remain a quiet space for participants throughout the day.



Sensory Inclusive Location

TEEN AND ADULT PROGRAMS

4th Wednesday of each month
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

CONSERVATION AND CONVERSATIONS

See program webpage for exact dates and topics.

Cost per participant: \$0

Connect with the Zoo as we critically explore a variety of environmental and conservation issues. Each month, participants will receive a discussion guide (including book, film, and podcast recommendations!) and access to a 60-minute live virtual discussion with Zoo educators. Join in on the discussion as we engage community members of all ages about conservation topics that are affecting the way we live in Louisville and how people live around the globe. Some sessions will feature guest speakers.

See the program webpage for registration and examples of past topics!

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Saturday October 29
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Members: \$40 / Non-members: \$60
Capacity: 30 tickets per session



Interested in nature photography?

Join us for a morning of learning the building blocks of great wildlife photography here at the Zoo. Zoo staff will walk you through animal behaviors to look for as well as the time of day or season when you'll get your best actions shots. Once you know what to look for in your subject our friends from Murphy's Camera will walk you through the basics of framing a shot and how to take advantage of your light. Designed for teens and adults with little to no wildlife photography experience, this program will take you outside the classroom and around the Zoo!

PRIVATE GROUP PROGRAMS

Meet and Greet
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

For a full list of available dates, visit our online calendar. Program dates must be reserved in advance.

Cost per program: \$350 (price includes up to 10 guests) – admission is not included in the cost of the program

Join us for a private Zoo experience for up to 10 participants. Designed for Zoo fans of all ages this private experience features 1-2 thematic activities of your choice, free play time in our Cubhouse and the opportunity to meet some of our small animal ambassadors. Once you register, Zoo educators will reach out to you and help guide you through program options to curate your best Zoo adventure.

GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS ARE BACK!

The Zoo is excited to announce a new array of programming for Girl Scouts! Check out our full list of offerings on our website or look for us on the Girl Scout program calendar. All registrations will be made through GSKYANA. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming Events:

GIRL SCOUTS AND GORILLAS

Saturday, Nov. 19 • 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

GIRL SCOUT BREAKFAST WITH THE BEARS

Saturday, Dec 17 • 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.



VOLUNTEERS

Animal Ambassadors Get a Youth Board Boost

"Every animal encounter supports the Zoo's mission," says Niko Jones, president of the Louisville Zoo Youth Board. That's why the volunteer organization of teens has pledged to raise \$15,000 to help expand the Zoo's Animal Ambassador program — to help "better the bond between people and our planet."

Specially trained to interact with the public, Animal Ambassadors bring learning to life by making educational appearances with staff and volunteers at the Zoo and throughout the community.

"It's such an important opportunity," Niko continues. "Having a hands-on experience with an animal will spark a passion for conservation."

Niko feels that passion himself. As a volunteer, he has accumulated more than 1,000 service hours working primarily in the giraffe area. Setting high goals is obviously not intimidating to Niko, who hopes to pursue medicine or biomedical

engineering after he graduates from Trinity High School next year.

"The Zoo is a big part of my life," he says. "It's taught me the value of work and getting involved."

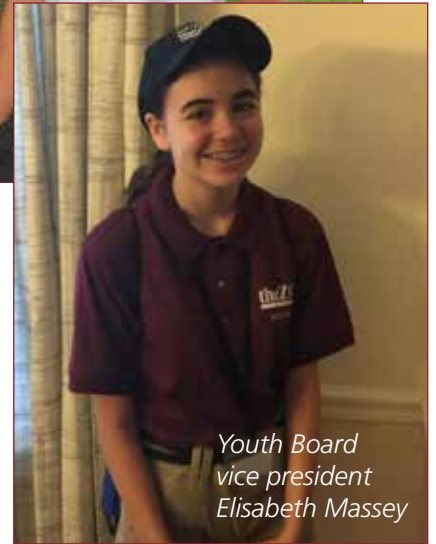
For Elisabeth Massey, who serves as vice president of the Youth Board, advocating for the Animal Ambassador program means getting involved on multiple levels.

The Atherton junior volunteers in the Zoo's summer camps and has always been interested in animals, particularly ethology, the study of animal behavior. Now she has an interest in fundraising too, which may be a useful skill in the future.

"I'd like to do field work and raise awareness for wildlife," she says, adding that she feels proud of her work at the Zoo whenever she sees a new generation getting excited about



*Youth Board
president
Niko Jones*



*Youth Board
vice president
Elisabeth Massey*

Planting a Sustainable Future

Thanks to the volunteers from **Cummins**, who transformed our Butterflies n' Blooms exhibit into a pollinator paradise! The Zoo is grateful to have volunteer partners like Cummins who are committed to creating a healthier planet.

Also, a special thanks to our volunteers from **Mercy Academy**, who laid new mulch in the Billabong Playabout to get the playground ready for summer!



conservation. Growing the Animal Ambassador program is the perfect way to cultivate the next crop of wildlife enthusiasts.

Both Elisabeth and Niko joined the Youth Board just before the pandemic, "which was a challenge for fundraising," Elisabeth admits. With more guests coming back to the Zoo, though, she's optimistic that the Board will meet its ambitious goal.

"We're at the Zoo every weekend, holiday and school break!"

Spoken like an accomplished fundraiser.

Stop by the Youth Board table near the elephants, where you can make your own sand art, get a temporary tattoo, and help them meet their goal!



THANK YOU FRIENDS OF THE LOUISVILLE ZOO!

The Friends of the Louisville Zoo Board have been producing Zoofari for 40 years and Brew at the Zoo for 12 years, raising funds to support capital and education initiatives at the Zoo. Their tremendous commitment to these events has benefited projects like Islands, Glacier Run, Gorilla Forest and most recently Snow Leopard Pass, as well as the bridge near the Lakeside café. Funds raised this year will support renovations to the MetaZoo Education Facility and the Animal Ambassador Program.

We are grateful to all event attendees and to the Friends Board for their continued support and dedication to follow their mission of "raising funds to preserve a legacy."

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LOUISVILLE

Raising Funds to Preserve a Legacy



DEVELOPMENT

Connecting communities to wildlife and inspiring action to save them

The Louisville Zoo has been the beneficiary of kindness from so many friends over the years, starting with an initial gift of \$1.5 million from James Graham Brown in the 1960's to establish the Zoo in Kentucky. Mr. Brown knew the significance of the work of zoo's and the benefit of having such a valuable resource with the community.

Since that time, thousands of friends, school children, businesses and supporters have worked together to create what we all can experience with our children today. What you may not know is your Zoo proudly serves as a regional resource focused on conservation of species that works within a network of 238 like-minded Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited facilities and 14 certified related facilities on a combined effort of improving life for animals and ensuring they survive for generations to come.

At the end of the day, wildlife and wild places need all of us to grow and thrive. They need the expert team at the Louisville Zoo and other AZA institutions to educate, advocate and champion for their survival. And, they need you to join us in this tremendously important work, too, as a volunteer, donor and member and as someone who includes their overall well-being in your daily decisions and actions.

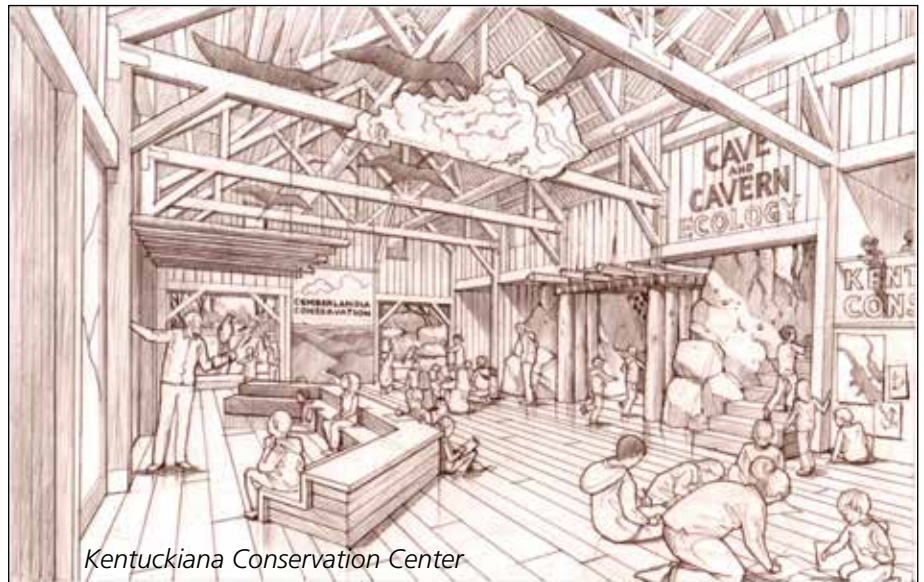
Today, we encourage you to join those that set the stage for what you enjoy today by considering an annual gift commitment to the Zoo. There are several ways to donate including the following.

- Join the Louisville Zoo Sustainer Society
- Set-up a recurring gift to the Louisville Zoo Fund



- Contribute appreciated stock (security account #78973274, DTC #0547)
- Direct your 401K or IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) to the Zoo
- Purchase an item from the Zoo's Wish List
- Round-up your upcoming membership renewal in support of the Louisville Zoo Fund
- ADOPT an animal
- Sponsor an event
- Plan to upgrade to a Zoo license plate next time you renew car tags
- Add the Louisville Zoo Foundation as a beneficiary on your estate, life insurance, IRA, Trust or other retirement plan.

To make a gift today visit LouisvilleZoo.org/Donate. To learn more about a specific area of interest, contact Kelly Grether, Director of Development, at (502) 238-5615 or Kelly.Grether@louisvilleky.gov.



On the Trail...

The Louisville Zoo Foundation Board approved a Master Plan for the organization in 2016. This plan outlined various expansion and renovation plans, including a new animal health center, African Savanna, and native wildlife habitat called Kentucky Trails. As an ode to our history and support from past friends and donors, the Zoo recently benefitted from animal advocates and statewide leaders coming together for animals. Many new and old friends alike were instrumental in helping us receive leadership funding from the Commonwealth of Kentucky (\$10M) and Metro Louisville (\$5M) for our next major initiative to support wildlife called, Kentucky Trails.

As you may have recently seen in the news, Kentucky Trails will be a new habitat at the Louisville Zoo to celebrate the cultural and natural heritage of the region. This will be situated on 20 undeveloped acres in the southeast area of Zoo behind Snow Leopard Pass and Glacier Run.

It will feature elk, bison, wild turkey, beavers, and other iconic animals native to Kentucky and significant to our region. This expansion will occur without major disruption to daily Zoo guests who, when it's complete, will have an opportunity to explore the habitat via an open-air vehicle, taking them into the exhibit among the herds. They will also enjoy animal engagement opportunities, demonstrations to showcase an animal's natural behaviors and observe critical research and conservation efforts to support Kentucky wildlife. Amenities such as an indoor dining venue and gift shop will also be included.

This \$30M project will be one of the many areas of focus for the Zoo's Board and staff for several years and we all look forward to sharing updates on our progress. To learn more, contact Kelly Grether, Director of Development, at (502) 238-5615 or Kelly.Grether@louisvilleky.gov

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 857,000 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 Kelly Grether at (502) 238-5615 or Kelly.Grether@louisvilleky.gov.

Special thanks to our generous sponsors for these programs:

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In honor of Kimtee, Neecee and Meru
(Snow Leopards)
Maureen Chambers
In honor of Helen
(Western lowland gorilla)
James Reesor

Endangered Species Day

Thank you to all who renewed or purchased a new membership during our Endangered Species Day campaign in May 2022. Over \$70,000 was raised from 563 donors to benefit the daily care, housing and enrichment for all animals at the Zoo!

The Zoo is home to some of the most amazing species on the planet and the team is 100 percent invested in supporting a species' overall well-being while also increasing accessibility for members of the community to experience the Zoo, our animal ambassadors and educational program offerings. The entire Zoo team is fully committed to this work because it is the right thing to do for the animals, the community, our shared planet and future generations. Thank you for joining us with your investment in the Zoo!

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