

TRUNKLINE



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SEPTEMBER 30!**





party animals

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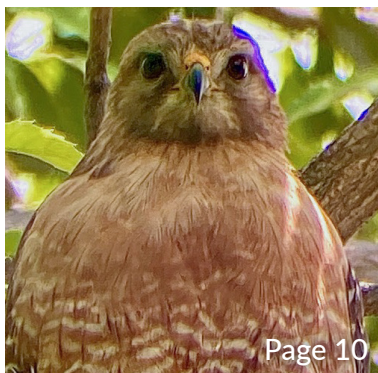
#meijercommunity

Proud to be the presenting sponsor of
Boo at the Zoo at the Louisville Zoo.

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WILDLIFE AT THE LOUISVILLE ZOO

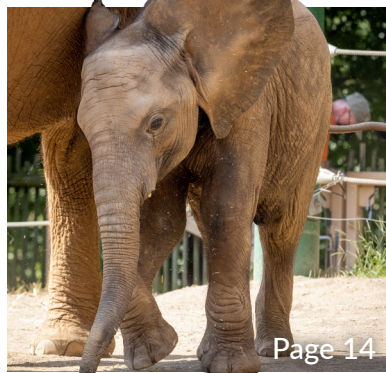
In addition to the animals that call the Zoo their home, we have some unofficial wild residents as well. Learn how a family of wild, red-shouldered hawks have made the Zoo their home for over 12 years!



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IN MEMORY OF FITZ

The Louisville Zoo is mourning the passing of elephant calf Fitz on June 30 following a brief battle with elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV-HD). Fitz touched the hearts of guests, keepers and the community alike.



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BOO AT THE ZOO

Presented by Meijer

Looking for a night of family-friendly fun? Join us at the Louisville Zoo for our annual Halloween party! Watch the Zoo come to life with trick-or-treating, special attractions and your favorite characters.



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NEW ARRIVALS

Meet the newest animals that call the Louisville Zoo their home, including Phoenix the zebra and Kai the bongo. Also learn about the many different bird species that hatched at the Louisville Zoo this year.



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Zoo Address

1100 Trevilian Way
Louisville, KY 40213

Telephone

Administrative Offices: (502) 459-2181

Education: (502) 238-5358

Membership Office: (502) 459-2287

Zoo Hours – Open Daily

Now – Sept. 17, 2023

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (exit by 6 p.m.)

Sept. 18, 2023 – Mar. 15, 2024

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (exit by 5 p.m.)

The Louisville Zoo is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Admission

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

Children 2 and under receive free regular admission.

Visit Us Online

Website: louisvillezoo.org. Instagram: @LouisvilleZooOfficial
Facebook, Twitter and TikTok: @LouisvilleZoo

Trunkline is published four times a year by the Louisville Zoological Gardens, Director, Dan Maloney.

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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).

The Louisville Zoo is KultureCity Sensory Inclusive™ Certified. Visit louisvillezoo.org/kulturecity for more information.



ALSO INSIDE...
Education programs, Throo the Zoo 5K
and much more!

GREETINGS

As the vibrant hues of autumn spread across Kentucky and Indiana, it becomes a truly magical time at the Louisville Zoo. Each year, hundreds-of-thousands of guests enter our gates to enjoy the crisp air, colorful foliage, amazing animals and, of course, Louisville's favorite Halloween tradition, Boo at the Zoo presented by Meijer!



Amidst this lively season, there's still another special event that takes place: Flutter Fest, a celebration surrounding the incredible migration of monarch butterflies to Mexico. Monarchs hold a special place in our hearts — not just for their beauty, but as indicators of environmental health. These awesome insects play a critical role in service to the ecosystem as vital pollinators. Flutter Fest reminds us all about the need to protect, preserve and promote wildlife everywhere, even those animals in our own backyards.

Your Louisville Zoo has been actively working to help re-establish local and regional habitat for monarchs, bees and other pollinators. Monarch waystations and pollinator gardens have been thoughtfully planted throughout the Zoo. Also, our Monarchs and Milkweed program is bringing new community partners on board to help create a positive impact. So far, we have supported eight organizations in creating their own pollinator gardens. We have also partnered with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources by utilizing Conservation Funding to design and produce pollinator signage to be featured on half-acre sites in all the state's 120 counties!

As you head out to the Zoo this autumn, take a moment to visit our Butterflies n' Blooms flight house before the butterflies flutter away on September 17th of this year. Learn more about the significance of monarch butterflies and how you can help them thrive. You can also scan the QR code below to learn how to create a monarch waystation of your own.

Let's come together this season to ensure a bright future for all our pollinators.

I'll see you soon at the Zoo!

Dan Maloney
Your Zoo's Director



**Learn how to
create your own
butterfly garden!**



Autumn is around the corner, and for many families in Louisville, that means the kids are headed back to school. Summer may be coming to a close, but the fun doesn't stop there! Students, families and youth groups can take part in a wide variety of educational activities all year round at the Louisville Zoo.

No matter how old you are, it's always exciting to visit with gorillas and marvel at meerkats. Field trips to the Zoo are a rite of passage for students of all ages in Louisville, and the MetaZoo offers plenty of classroom-style Virtual Animal Adventures that allow for interactive learning from a distance. Parents of very young learners can partake in an early morning walk through the Zoo at one of many Sippy Cup Strolls, and Sensory-Friendly Sundays are a great option for families looking to enjoy a personalized learning experience with fewer stimuli. As a strong believer in the impact of early childhood education, I'm grateful to our team at the Zoo for providing so many ways for younger minds to engage with the world around us.

It's critical that we teach our kids to enjoy learning at an early age. It's also important that we give them ample opportunity to play. As the weather cools down, the Louisville Zoo transforms into a living storybook to host its annual, nationally acclaimed Halloween bash. Boo at the Zoo has been a Louisville tradition for over 40 years – and with good reason! Characters like Mumpkin the Giant Talking Pumpkin and the legendary Headless Horseman come out to delight trick-or-treaters at this not-so-spooky night of fun. The whole family is encouraged to dress up in your best costumes to enjoy this legendary event at the Zoo.

As always, I want to give a special shout-out to Zoo Director Dan Maloney and the entire Zoo team for their amazing work. This team is responsible for so many of the important services that our Zoo provides. Some of these services are easier to see than others, like animal care and visitor relations. Behind the scenes at the Louisville Zoo are conservationists, community outreach coordinators, veterinarians, event planners, maintenance specialists, and public servants of all kinds who work tirelessly to keep things running. All of these folks' efforts to care for our regional ecosystems, educate our community, and make strides toward sustainability are a model of excellence for all of us at Metro. At your next visit to the Louisville Zoo, be sure to thank these hardworking individuals for their awesome contributions to our entire community!

Sincerely,

Craig Greenberg
Louisville Mayor



MEMBERSHIP



FALL in Love With Your Zoo This Season!

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 Halloween experience. Fairer weather and cooler temps mean active animals and memorable moments with your favorite animal ambassadors. Be sure you get out and ZOO something different during these cooler autumn days!

Faster to the Fun

Members: Follow These Tips for Easy Entry Into the Zoo

Arrive anytime during regular hours! Just bring your card and proceed directly to the gate to be scanned in.

Confirm Your Membership Details Online

Go to louisvillezoo.org/member and click "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

Visit us online at louisvillezoo.org/member or call (502) 459-2287

REMINDER: Membership cards are not mailed. Please pick up your permanent card at any ticketing window on your next visit.



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.

Norton Walking Club

Presented by Norton Healthcare Prevention and Wellness

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 2024!



Kroger Community Rewards

Did you know 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.

ZOO BUCKS

The Louisville Zoo is pleased to offer members quarterly coupons with various 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.

ADMISSION	ADMISSION	FOOD	FOOD
ONE FREE ADULT OR CHILD TICKET <i>One time use. Coupon must be turned in at time of redemption. Valid Louisville Zoo Membership and photo ID required.</i> <i>Discount cannot be used with any other offers, discounts or after-hour events.</i>	SINGLE CAROUSEL TICKET UPGRADED TO UNLIMITED WRISTBAND FOR FREE <i>One time use. Coupon must be turned in at time of redemption. Valid Louisville Zoo Membership and photo ID required.</i> <i>Discount cannot be used with any other offers, discounts or after-hour events.</i>	FREE POPCORN WITH THE PURCHASE OF A SOUVENIR FOUNTAIN DRINK <i>One time use. Valid Louisville Zoo Membership and photo ID required.</i> <i>Valid during regular Zoo hours and Boo at the Zoo.</i> <i>Discount cannot be used with any other offers or discounts.</i>	FREE COTTON CANDY WITH THE PURCHASE OF A SOUVENIR ICEE <i>One time use. Valid Louisville Zoo Membership and photo ID required.</i> <i>Valid during regular Zoo hours and Boo at the Zoo.</i> <i>Discount cannot be used with any other offers or discounts.</i>
 %NLZ230810	 %NLZ230202		
Expires 11/30/23	Expires 11/30/23	Expires 11/30/23	Expires 11/30/23

FALL EVENTS

HUMP DAY HAPPY HOURS

Island Getaway — Sept. 13

6:30 — 8:30 p.m.

Price — \$40

Advance ticket required.

Our wildly popular Happy Hour series continues this fall with a fun Island Getaway. Registration for these exclusive 21-and-older experiences include two drink tickets, tasty small bites and special interactions with our exceptional zoo keepers and extraordinary animals. Set your clock to island time and join us as we explore our Islands area. Space is limited, visit louisvillezoo.org/event to reserve your spot!



MONARCHS AND MIMOSAS

Sept. 9, 8:30 — 10 a.m.

Price — \$40

Advance ticket required.

Enjoy a refreshing beverage as you learn tips for creating your own pollinator garden from our experts. This special 21+ class includes cocktails, pastries, access to a native plant sale and a free milkweed plant to start your own pollinator habitat at home! For additional information and to reserve your spot, visit louisvillezoo.org/event.



CINEMA SAFARI — GHOSTBUSTERS AFTERLIFE

Sept. 1, Enter the Zoo at 8 p.m., Movie starts at sundown

Presented by Great Clips

Movie nights are FREE for Louisville Zoo members and only \$5 after 8 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 miss it: the Louisville Ghostbusters will be back to meet with guests! For more information, visit louisvillezoo.org/movies.



FALL EVENTS



FLUTTER FEST

Sept. 11 – 15, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Sept. 16, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Presented by PNC Grow Up Great

Join us for our 7th annual Flutter Fest to 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 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the Main Plaza 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, plus receive a free take-home craft (while supplies last). Join us and visit the butterfly house one last time before the fun flutters away Sunday, September 17!

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 can help butterflies. Visit louisvillezoo.org/butterflies to learn more.



**SCAN HERE
for a full list
of events**

louisvillezoo.org/events



A HAWK-EYE VIEW OF THE ZOO

By Mark Mlynek, Keeper

What is a zoo? If you ask people this question, you will likely hear responses such as, “a family-friendly place with lots of animals” or “a park-like setting with exhibits that have animals from all around the world.” The Louisville Zoo is that and more. Our Zoo is an arboretum full of various species of trees and flowers. Furthermore, it is a haven for wildlife.

A variety of wild mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians call our Zoo home that are not considered official residents. Most of these animals stop by seasonally, either living on grounds during the warmer months of the year when food is plentiful or as a rest stop during their fall and spring migrations. However, some animals stay here all year long.

and swamps. The Louisville Zoo has plenty of trees, a swamp in the back and a variety of food sources for predators. So, it's no surprise why our Zoo has been the pair's ideal home for over twelve years. These wild hawks could not have chosen a better place to settle down and raise a family. Because they have made such a comfortable home here, the female has successfully hatched chicks every year on Zoo grounds.

The pair have built and occupied four different nests during their time at the Zoo. The first year's nest was in a tree behind the MetaZoo Discovery Center. Then, for the next eight years, they switched between either a nest above the “yellow brick road” visitor path or above the ZooVision building. For the last two years, the nest has been above the MetaZoo Amphitheater.

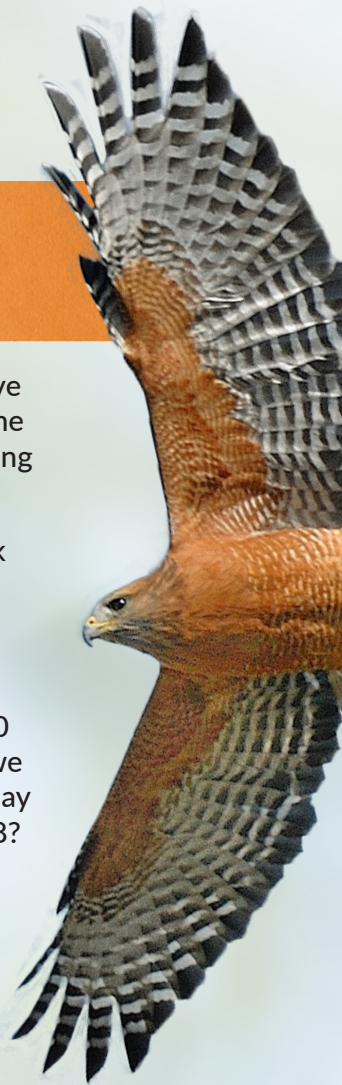
Building a nest is not as simple as just throwing some sticks into a pile. Birds are very selective about what wood and leaves are used. The selection of branches and leaves are made based on needs for structure, comfort and insulation. Red-shouldered hawks will go out of their local area, if needed, to find a black cherry tree. This particular type of tree has a natural insect repellent within its leaves.

This pair takes nest security seriously. Each year, Zoo workers who have gotten too close may have received a warning smack on the head from the foot of a fly-by hawk. To protect guests, the Zoo

puts up protective awnings under the nest during nesting seasons.

The female hawk will start sitting on her eggs in the middle of March. (Do you remember the 10 inches of snow we got on the first day of Spring in 2018? The female was in the nest, on her eggs, under that snow.) The incubation time for red-shouldered hawk eggs is about 33 days. During most of the years with us, the hatching of eggs was like clockwork, always near April 17. However, for the past two or three years, the schedule of laying the eggs and the hatching have occurred a week earlier. There may be two possible reasons for this: increasing age and body changes of the female, or a slight climate change in our environment with slightly warmer temperatures earlier than typically expected.

Every year, the female has hatched out three chicks, with the exception of one year with four chicks. While all the eggs have successfully hatched each year, our pair had two sad seasons when the chicks did not live very long. In the neighborhood around the Zoo, red-shouldered hawks are near the top of the food chain, but they



One special family of wild, full-time residents is a pair of red-shouldered hawks. Red-shouldered hawks are medium-sized raptors that are quite common in many parts of Kentucky including metro Louisville. They weigh between one and two pounds, with the females being larger than the males. Red-shouldered hawks' preferred habitats are woodlands

are not at the very top; that spot belongs to the great horned owl! During two nesting seasons, a great horned owl raided the nest in the middle of the night, taking all the hawk chicks.

The roles of our female and male hawks are fairly set during nesting season. The female will tend to the nest while the male hunts and provides for the family. Occasionally, the male will give the female a break and temporarily take over nest duties while the female has a chance to get out, go for a flight and stretch her wings. After a successful hunt, the male will typically bring back small mammals and birds to the nest for food, but there has been a random

offering of a snake or lizard. When the chicks are about 4 – 6 weeks old, they will be fully grown and have replaced all their white fuzz with feathers. After climbing out of the nest and walking onto the surrounding branches, they will begin testing their abilities by flapping their wings and building up their strength. After about 8 weeks old, the young ones will be in the air, learning to fly and hunt with their parents. Then, by the time autumn has come to the Zoo, the young will have left their parents to start a life on their own.

The exact age of our parent hawks will never be known. We do know they are at least 15 years old. With the maximum lifespan of a wild red-shouldered hawk being around 20 years, that means that, unfortunately, our pair are in their twilight years. Once our pair has passed on, perhaps one of their offspring will move back

into their parents' territory and continue their legacy. Our pair have provided wonderful opportunities for Zoo workers and guests to observe the circles of life, as well as providing years of free pest control. Regardless of what happens, we are grateful to have been able to follow along on their journey and for everything they have taught us.



TREES LOUISVILLE GIVEAWAY

Oct. 7, 9 a.m. — 12 p.m. *(while supplies last)*

The tree giveaway will take place at the front of the Zoo for residents of Jefferson County. (Zoo admission is not required.)

550 FREE one-gallon trees of various species will be available to residents of Jefferson County. Trees will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Limit of 2 trees per person/ household or one C tree per person/household.

Species anticipated to be available include: Redbud (C), American Filbert (C), Pecan, Persimmon, Overcup Oak and Tulip Poplar.

These tree giveaways go fast, so arrive early for the best selection!



For more information
visit louisvillezoo.org/event

EVENTS

LOUISVILLE ZOO

THROO

theZOO

5K RUN/WALK

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 11
8 A.M.



Proceeds from this important FUNdraiser support the care of more than 1,100 precious animals that call the Louisville Zoo home!

Dash over and celebrate the 30th annual Throo the Zoo 5k, the only road race that actually goes “throo” the Zoo. Enjoy the WILDEST 5k in town as you race alongside some of your favorite Zoo animals!

All participants receive a commemorative finisher medal, free cotton t-shirt (upgrade to a tech shirt for an additional fee), post-race refreshments and refueling options, plus a ticket to the Zoo so you can return and enjoy your visit at a much slower pace.

Advance registration starts as low as \$30!

NEW for 2023: the earlier you register the more chances you have to win! In honor of our 30th anniversary, we’ve teamed up with race sponsors and community partners to offer 30 giveaways leading up to race day. Anyone registered for the race is eligible to win!

EVENTS



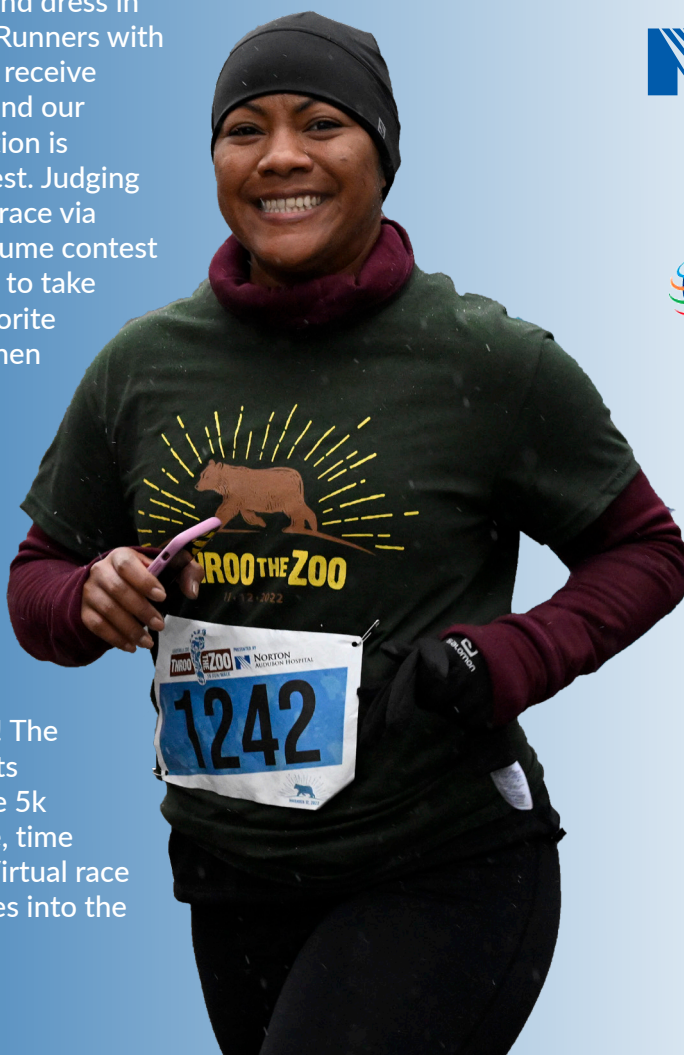
Register today before the price goes up!
Online registration and additional details
available at louisvillezoo.org/race

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 before or after the race to take a photo, then vote for your favorite on the Zoo's Facebook page when they are posted!

Virtual race option

Unable to make the race on November 11? 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! The virtual race option allows guests an opportunity to complete the 5k distance on their own at a date, time and course of their choosing. Virtual race registration also includes entries into the giveaway drawings.



Presented by



NORTON
AUDUBON HOSPITAL

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PEPSICO



OUTFRONT/



Join our efforts to honor and celebrate Fitz's life.
Your purchase of this limited-time t-shirt will directly support
EEHV research via several Louisville Zoo conservation partners.
Campaign is only available Sept. 3 – Sept. 17.



In Memory of Fitz

August 2, 2019 – June 30, 2023

The Louisville Zoo celebrates the life of our beloved elephant calf, Fitz. Born on August 2, 2019, Fitz's playful spirit charmed all who had the privilege of watching him. With his irresistible curiosity and heartwarming interactions, Fitz became a source of delight and inspiration for visitors and staff alike.



From his first steps in the world to his endearing trunk wiggles, Fitz left a mark on our hearts. His presence at the Louisville Zoo reminded us all about the importance of elephant conservation, fostering a profound appreciation for wildlife protection in our community. Fitz's journey touched countless lives, bringing people together with a shared love for these majestic creatures.



Fitz tragically succumbed to elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV-HD) — one of the most serious medical concerns facing elephants in human care and the wild. There is currently no approved vaccine or prevention for EEHV-HD. The entire team of keepers and veterinarians worked tirelessly to support Fitz during his illness, receiving invaluable assistance from accredited zoos across the nation. Despite the extraordinary efforts, the virus proved too formidable.

AZA-accredited zoos and other conservation organizations are working to develop a vaccine to fight this deadly virus. We hope that Fitz's story serves to further raise awareness

about this issue facing elephants worldwide.

Thank you to everyone who stopped to leave remembrances and pay tribute to this beloved little elephant. Your heartfelt cards, artwork, photos, and flowers have been a source of comfort to us all. Though his time with us was tragically brief, we take solace in knowing Fitz's impact and memory will forever remain in the hearts of all who encountered him. His legacy of wonder and joy will forever be etched in the tapestry of our Zoo's history, serving as inspiration for future generations to protect wildlife and foster a world where they thrive.



EVENTS



THURSDAYS — SUNDAYS
SEPT. 30 — OCT. 29

Start the fun nightly at 5 p.m.
(Guests must exit by 10 p.m.)

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!

ALLERGY FRIENDLY NIGHT

Thursday, Oct. 19

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 for an allergy-friendly option at our Switch Witch booth.



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

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.

Members	\$7.00
Non-members	\$13.50
Age 2 & Under	FREE
Meijer Anytime Tickets*	\$11.50

* 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 and 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!



Visit louisvillezoo.org/boo to purchase tickets

EVENTS

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 animals; that could be very dangerous for them. We know balloons can be fun, but they're scary for our animal friends.
- **Don't** wear "scary" costumes; this is a family-friendly event.



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Additional support by



Councilman
Pat Mulvihill and
District 10 Residents



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, Thurs., Oct. 19.
- 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 accounts and website.

ATTRACTIONS



**"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**

Journey back in time to 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 when you spot the legendary Headless Horseman!



**SPOOKTACULAR
CAROUSEL**

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

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.



FOOD & DRINKS

Limited time: Spooky Ice Cream

Pumpkin spice cone, purple sprinkles and an Oreo!

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*).

EDUCATION



SAVE THE DATE!

CAMPS ON SALE SEPTEMBER 1

All fall winter and single-day camps are for grades 1 – 3 and include (general camp description).
For more information, visit louisvillezoo.org/camps

FALL CAMPS

October 2 – 6

Scaredy Cats

We have all heard about scaredy cats, but are cats really scared? The answer depends on if you are predator or prey! In this camp, we will explore the felines of the Louisville Zoo and discover what secrets they are hiding!



Camps are \$70 per day for members and \$75 for non members.

WE <3 CAMPS

Spring and summer break camps go on sale February 14, 2024!



SINGLE DAY

EDUCATION



**NOVEMBER 6
KEEPER CAMP**

Have you ever wanted to be a Zoo keeper? From cleaning to training to keeper talks — the keepers at the Louisville Zoo are always working to ensure the health, happiness, and safety of our animal ambassadors. In this camp, explore what being a keeper means in a one-day crash course!



**NOVEMBER 7
VET CAMP**

Have you ever wanted to be a vet at a Zoo? Zoo veterinarians are at the forefront of the veterinary medical field as they deal with issues big and small, known and unknown! In this one-day crash course, discover what a “normal” day looks like for our talented vet staff!



**NOVEMBER 22
CREATURES & CREATIONS**

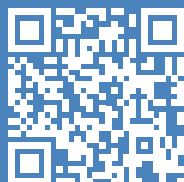
Stop by to find out about some of the most creative creatures on our planet! From dazzling webs to intricate dams, all across the globe animals are creating beautiful, cobbled together, or downright strange structures that help them survive! In this camp, we will discuss why so many animals create things and discover what many of these look like!



WINTER CAMPS

**December 26 – 29
Polar Playtime**

Just because we play in the snow doesn't mean the cold is all fun and games! Many animals survive year round in the coldest parts of our planet, and they make it look easy. In this camp, discover what animals survive in the cold, how animals prepare for winter, and if it really is as easy as it looks!



SCAN HERE for a list of education programs and camps or visit us online at louisvillezoo.org/education

EDUCATION

SIPPY CUP STROLL

8:30 — 10:30 a.m.

Member Price: \$20 adult and \$12 child

Non-Member Price: \$30 adult and \$20 child

Join us for this program specifically designed for young minds! Enjoy an early morning learning walk through the Zoo focused on different animals each week, followed by time in the Snow Leopard Cub House presented by PNC. This event includes animal information, free play, and other age-appropriate activities. Check in on the Zoo's front plaza from 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. Program starts at 8:45 a.m. and lasts until 10:30 a.m. Subject to change based on the needs of the animals.

Advance ticket required.



For ages
2 – 6
(FREE for 2
and under)

Themes	Dates	Description
Zoo Favorites	Sept. 27, 29	Say good morning to your favorite Zoo friends! Join us on an early morning walk guided by the group to learn more about our favorite animal ambassadors.
African Safari	Sept. 1 Oct. 6	Wake up with a roar! Join us as we trek across Africa to learn all about the amazing animals found there!
Forest Friends	Sept. 8, 9 Oct. 13, 14	So many different animals live in the forests around the world. Join us to learn more about all the different forest dwellers — from rain forests to deciduous forests, we have animals from every forest biome!
Pollinators	Sept. 15, 16 Oct. 20, 21	Pollinators are not just bees and butterflies! Come and explore the wide variety of pollinators here at the Louisville Zoo.
Ancient Animals	Sept. 22, 23 Oct. 25, 28	Come join us as we learn all about the animals in the Zoo that have been around since the time of the dinosaurs.

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

Sept. 9, 2023; 9 – 11 a.m.

Special ticket required.

Presented by Louisville Zoo &
Murphy's Camera

Break into wildlife photography! Learn from experts about lighting, framing, animal behaviors to look for and more. This session will take you outside the classroom and around the Zoo! Designed for teens and adults with little to no wildlife photography experience.



BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

9 – 11 a.m.

Member Price: \$25 adult and \$20 child (FREE for 2 and under)

Non-Member Price: \$35 adult and \$30 child (FREE for 2 and under)

Advance ticket required.

Wake up with some of your favorite animals in this program that takes a special look at how our animals start the day. Enjoy an exclusive keeper talk, a variety of breakfast treats like pastries and yogurt parfaits, activities and plenty of fun as we say “good morning” to the Zoo. Subject to change based on the needs of the animals.

- Savanna Mammals – Sept. 2
- Unexpected Pollinators – Oct. 7
- Snow Leopards – Nov. 4



SENSORY-FRIENDLY SUNDAY

Sponsored by Great Clips

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Member Price: \$20 adult and \$12 child (FREE for 2 and under)

Non-Member Price: \$30 adult and \$20 child (FREE for 2 and under)

Enjoy the Zoo at your own pace during this program for Zoo fans that want a quiet, exclusive experience. 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. Guided Zoo walks will include animal information provided by Zoo docents and staff about our monthly theme and call attention to sensory stops on Zoo grounds like our accessible playground or the Snow Leopard Cub House presented by PNC. When the Zoo officially opens at 10 a.m., program participants can take part in fun and educational activities in our MetaZoo Discovery Center which will remain a reserved quiet space for program participants until the program ends at 12 p.m. All themes and activities are subject to change based on the needs of the animals.

- Explore from the Forest Floor to the Canopy – Sept. 10
- Living Dinosaurs – Oct. 22
- Animal Giants – Nov. 12
- Pollinators – Dec. 3

Advance ticket required.

CONSERVATION & CONVERSATIONS

12:30 – 1:30 p.m. Audience: teens and adults

FREE to register and participate

Connect with the Zoo as we critically explore a variety of environmental and conservation issues. Each month we will meet and discuss a conservation topic that falls under one of three larger conservation education topics, Field Science, Global Climate Change, and Modern Zoos. Participants will receive a discussion guide for each topic and are invited to participate in a series of 60-minute live virtual discussions with Zoo educators.

Themes include: What is Accreditation and Why Do We Want It? (Sept. 27), Green Burial (Oct. 25), Active Restoration (Nov. 15).





A FIERY NEW ADDITION

In July, the Louisville Zoo welcomed Phoenix, a captivating 3-year-old Hartmann's mountain zebra, all the way from Disney's Animal Kingdom! Guests can catch a glimpse of the new addition on rotation in the Africa zone. Get ready to be mesmerized by this stunning new member of our zebra herd!

The Tortoise and the... Hyrax?

The Louisville Zoo is excited to welcome three new rock hyraxes named Coal, Jazmyne and Bunny! While these hyraxes may look a bit like large Guinea pigs, they are actually most closely related to elephants. Our new friends are settling in well in their giraffe house habitat along with two new leopard tortoises.

Winged Wonders

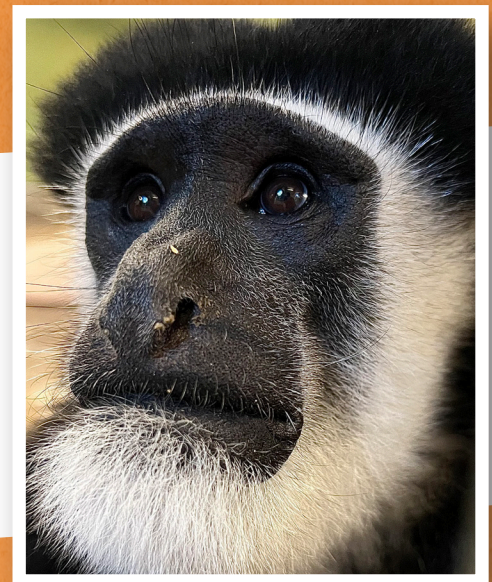
Attention all bird enthusiasts! Don't miss the chance to spot two new male sunbitterns from Toledo Zoo on our Islands Bird Trail! Head inside the Pavilion to see these interesting birds native to marshes of Central and South America. With eye-catching red patches at the center of their wings, they are truly a sight to behold.





BOUNDING INTO THE LIMELIGHT

Also new to our Africa zone, stop and say hello to Kai, the male eastern bongo. Kai made his grand entrance in June all the way from the Jacksonville Zoo! Born on November 5, 2021, this spirited antelope is settling well into his new home. While he gets accustomed to his new space, he will have access to his outdoor habitat or the option of retiring to his indoor bedroom at any time.



Monkey Business

Swing by Colobus Crossing near the African Outpost to meet our three new friends. Mother Nali (8 years old) and daughters, Ate (pronounced ah-tay, 3 years old) and Phyllis (2 years old) arrived from the Lincoln Children's Zoo to join our male colobus monkey, Sheldon. Make sure to grab a bite to eat while watching these fluffy friends play in their habitat.

Hatching It Out

You've seen Penguin Cove — our Little Penguin Conservation Center — but there are also many more bird propagation efforts that go on behind-the-scenes that you may not know about! Some of the birds hatched this year include little penguins, white storks, Inca terns, wood partridges, saffron finches, blue-gray tanagers, tawny frogmouths, golden-breasted starlings and many, many more.

A Wild New Partnership

The Louisville Zoo's marketing team is thrilled to announce its partnership with BCH as the new Advertising Agency of Record. Together, we're looking forward to embarking on more unforgettable campaigns and collaborations that will make a lasting impact for wildlife. Expect an exciting new chapter for our Zoo!



SPONSORS

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 almost 900,000 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.

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OUTFRONT



AJ'S STORY

"Look at the giraffe! Look at the bear!" Or, "Oh! What does a lion say?"

As an adult, you probably have fond memories of your first visit to the Zoo. Maybe you have a favorite photo to commemorate the day that conjures up feelings of spending precious time with family and friends. Perhaps you've passed your love of the Zoo on to your children, and cherish your new photos of that special first visit.

Earlier this year, a donor reached out to the Zoo to share the story of a young boy named AJ who had never had an opportunity to visit the Zoo due to serious medical challenges. His medical needs have kept him at home or in the hospital and away from anyone in public his entire life. However, after countless surgeries and the stress of protecting his vulnerable body during the height of COVID-19, his parents and medical team were ready to help him enjoy his first ever visit to HIS Zoo — the Louisville Zoo.

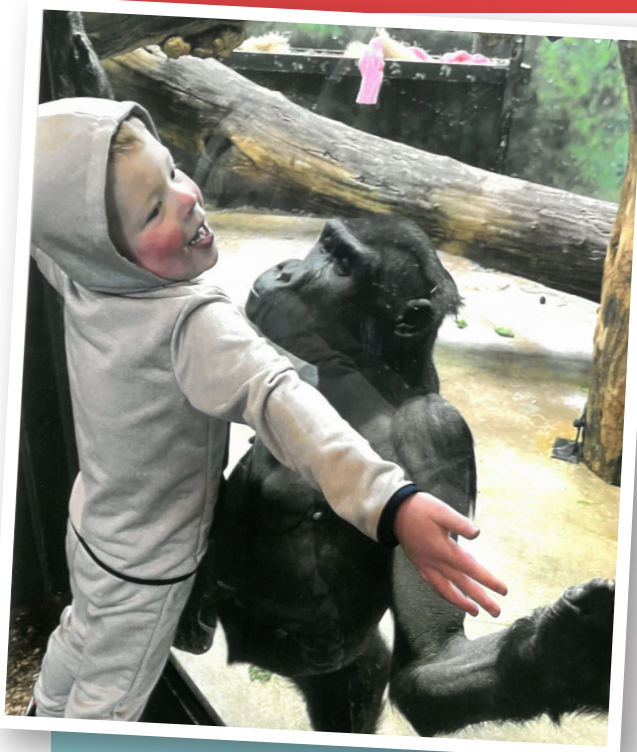
AJ's mom's co-workers made sure it was going to be a special day he hopefully would always remember. One to last a lifetime. His mom's coworkers pooled their resources to roll out the red carpet for him. Very early on the morning of AJ's 5th birthday, a limo picked AJ and his family up, driving them to the Zoo where they were greeted with a smile and golf cart. Before the Zoo opened, they had an opportunity to see Sunni the sloth eating her morning meal. They enjoyed a stop in Gorilla Forest to visit with 7-year-old western lowland gorilla Kindi and her family group. Kindi greeted AJ with an acrobatic display in her habitat and a much calmer hello "hug." He jumped with pure joy and excitement when his mom gave the approving nod for him to head toward the playground — with no worries or fear. He fed a giraffe and was the first to ride on the Zoo's carousel that day.

He was a kid just being a kid.

He left the Zoo with rosy red cheeks, a big smile on his face, and a plush bear animal to snuggle; his parents left with a new family memory and a great appreciation for having such a special place in their community. His mother remarked, "We have been blessed by this opportunity that truly enriches our family's faith moving forward."

Zoo staff were left with full hearts and a renewed appreciation for and commitment to our mission, "to better the bond between people and our planet."

PHILANTHROPY



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR ZOO

- Join the Louisville Zoo Sustainer Society
- Set-up a monthly/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
- Round-up your upcoming membership renewal in support of the Louisville Zoo Fund
- Plan to upgrade to a Zoo license plate next time you renew your car tags
- Note the Zoo Foundation as a beneficiary on your estate, life insurance, IRA, Trust or other retirement plan



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

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DIANE TAYLOR SPIRIT AWARD

We are delighted to announce Susan Norman as the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Diane Taylor Spirit Award. This award recognizes an adult volunteer whose service and dedication to the Zoo and its mission “to better the bond between people and our planet” truly exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism. For over two decades, Susan has been an unwavering and dedicated Raptor Docent at the zoo, committing her time every week to the ambassador raptors.

Her skilled presentations and vast knowledge have educated and inspired countless visitors, from young campers to elderly nursing home residents. Beyond her commitment to the Zoo, Susan’s altruism extends to the Oldham County Humane Society, showcasing her compassion for all animals. Her kindness and thoughtfulness towards her fellow volunteers also make her a truly exceptional person. Susan Norman’s remarkable service and devotion make her a most deserving recipient of this award.

JONATHON MICHAEL HEATON AWARD

We are thrilled to announce Lyric P. Bentley as the deserving winner of the 2023 Jonathon Michael Heaton Outstanding Youth Award. As a dedicated teen volunteer at the Zoo since April 2019, Lyric’s contributions have been invaluable. From diligently preparing diets and handling daily supplies in the commissary to washing dishes and assisting with various tasks, Lyric’s commitment and hard work have not gone unnoticed. Beyond her regular duties, she has also been an active member of the Louisville Zoo Youth Board, eagerly participating in all activities and showing unwavering support for the Zoo. Lyric’s friendly and informative interactions with Zoo guests have left a positive and lasting impression on everyone she encounters. Her passion for volunteering extends to working with camp activities, exemplifying her dedication to enriching the Zoo experience for all visitors. We are proud to honor Lyric for her outstanding service and selfless contributions to our Zoo community.



A heartfelt thank you to all our amazing volunteers who have made the past year truly remarkable. With over 1,400 dedicated individuals contributing a total of 23,908 volunteer hours, your passion and commitment have been nothing short of extraordinary. Your invaluable service has saved the Zoo a staggering value of \$705,921, allowing us to further our mission of conservation and education. From caring for our animals to engaging with visitors, your unwavering support has enriched our Zoo community in countless ways. We are immensely grateful for your kindness, enthusiasm and selflessness. You are the heartbeat of our Zoo, and we couldn’t do it without you.

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