

TRUNKLINE

**POSTER
INSIDE!**

QANNIK'S BEARY BIG NEWS

Louisville's favorite polar bear is looking for a mate!



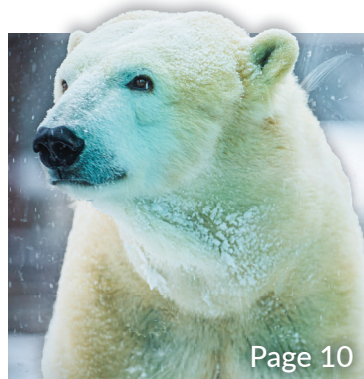
bch
AD+PR agency

Thanks Louisville Zoo for selecting us as your new advertising + public relations partner.

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QANNIK'S BEARY BIG NEWS

Hear about Qannik's impressive rescue story and learn about the latest developments with her status in polar bear conservation.



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HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING IDEAS

Looking for the perfect holiday gift this year? Your Louisville Zoo has gifts for the whole family including fun items from our gift shop, a yearlong membership and even a gift to help conservation!



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2024 CAMPS & CLASSES

There's so much to learn at the Louisville Zoo. From Sensory Sundays to Spring & Summer Camps, give your little ones a peek at a bigger world.



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METAZOO RENOVATIONS

Work has begun on the new MetaZoo building and renovation of the current building to house more animals for the ambassador program.



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ALSO INSIDE...

A poster of Qannik the polar bear, a 2023 recap and much more!

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 – Mar. 15, 2024
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (exit by 5 p.m.)
Mar. 16 – Sept. 22, 2024
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (exit by 6 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.

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT



KultureCity

SAFE
SAVING ANIMALS
FROM EXTINCTION

GREETINGS



Along with the arrival of frosty air and foggy breath comes the renewed promise of joy and celebration. We couldn't be more excited to share the wonderful winter happenings at your favorite destination for animal adventures and family fun, the Louisville Zoo.

Get ready to dive into a world of enchantment and wildlife wonder! We're all set to make your winter season even more extraordinary with a lineup of activities that will warm your hearts, even on the chilliest of days.

New this December, join us for a Winter Scavenger Hunt! It's the perfect opportunity to stay active while you search the Zoo's evergreen grounds for hidden treasures. Keep an eye out for clues as you enjoy the playful antics of our residents enjoying wintertime activities. You never know what you might discover!

Looking ahead to 2024, we're excited about the many possibilities and new experiences on the horizon. We have an array of fresh and engaging education programs, as well as captivating family events lined up. These programs are sure to support your New Year's resolution of spending more quality time together with your loved ones. Whether you're seeking enriching educational experiences or delightful family adventures, we have something special in store for everyone. Read more on pages 20 – 23.

But that's not all! In March, get ready for the triumphant return of Wild Lights, featuring a dazzling array of all-new lanterns. This spectacular event promises a radiant send-off to winter and a warm welcome to the blossoming spring!

In addition to these exciting events, we're thrilled to share a momentous update in the Zoo's propagation of rare and endangered species. Qannik has finally been "green-lighted" to participate in the cooperative breeding program between polar bears of accredited zoos. Her

exciting transition represents a remarkable milestone in our commitment to preserving these iconic marine mammals. It's a testament to the dedication of our team and the support of passionate people like you. You can learn more about this important update on page 10.

As a dedicated Zoo patron, your contributions make all this possible. Every visit, membership, rounded-up purchase and donation fuels the mission to conserve wildlife and their habitats. Your generosity enables us to provide the best possible care for our animals, help families create fond memories, and participate in crucial conservation initiatives around the world.

As we step into 2024, join us for a year filled with brilliance, discovery and cherished moments. Within the pages of this edition of Trunkline, you'll learn more about our unique offerings and the many great opportunities for adventure. Keep an eye out for updates on these exciting events, and let's make the upcoming year one to remember at the Louisville Zoo!

Warmest wishes from our Zoo family to yours. See you soon at the Zoo!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan".

Dan Maloney
Louisville Zoo Director





Louisville's winter has its own special charm and no place in our city highlights this quite like the Louisville Zoo.

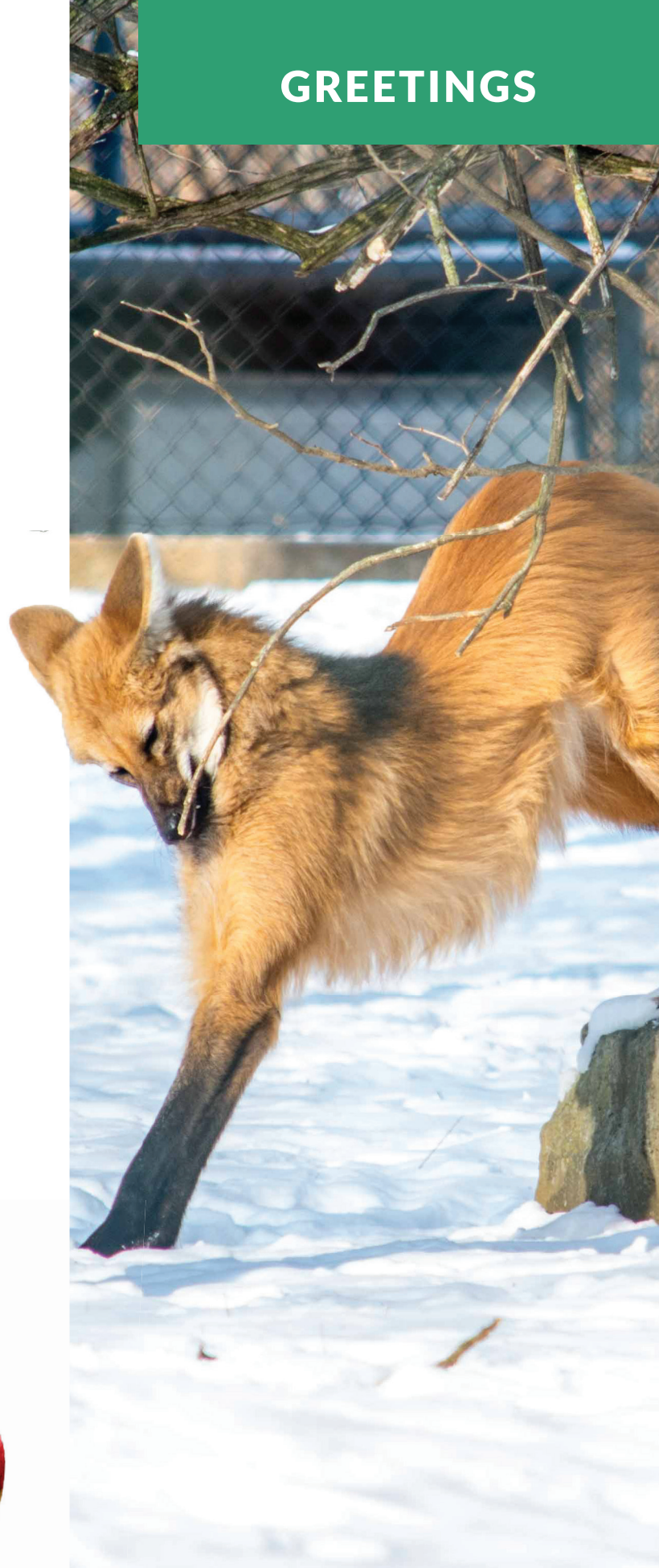
Even as the weather turns colder, the Zoo offers visitors of all ages the opportunity to learn and make memories together in a unique environment. Guests can enjoy watching animals like snow leopards and polar bears that are right at home in colder weather. We can also enjoy the warmth of indoor spaces like the Islands Forest Trail and HerpAquarium, and the Louisville Zoo provides opportunities to stay active as you explore the winding paths, engaging with the animals or enjoying one of the festive December events.

This winter, I encourage you to visit the Louisville Zoo with friends and family. And remember that every visit to the Zoo contributes to vital conservation efforts, making it an experience that's fun and educational while also creating a positive impact for our community and our planet.

Institutions like the Louisville Zoo are part of the unique cultural fabric of our city. I am deeply grateful to you for supporting this and other treasured local institutions during the holiday season. Together, let's ensure that the Louisville Zoo continues to offer educational opportunities, champion wildlife conservation, and serve as a source of wonder and delight for the people of Louisville for generations to come.

Wishing you a holiday season filled with joy and meaning.

Craig Greenberg
Louisville Mayor



MEMBERSHIP



WE DON'T HIBERNATE!

The Louisville Zoo is open daily year-round — come out and embark on a fun winter adventure! Your Zoo has several toasty indoor areas to explore with many of your favorite animals in the HerpAquarium, Islands and Gorilla Forest. Or bundle up and walk the Zoo while our outdoor animals enjoy the cool weather. After curing your cabin fever, stop by the Main Plaza Gift Shop and use your member discount (10% off) to grab some cozy Zoo gear, a cup of hot chocolate and more!

On the Prowl for the Perfect Present?

A voucher in the amount of any membership level makes the perfect gift for anyone. Purchase a Louisville Zoo membership voucher and provide your loved ones with a full year of exciting and memorable experiences.

PLUS, now through January 1, 2024, if you purchase a voucher online for someone else, you'll receive a **\$5.00 discount**. Your gift recipients will receive a **FREE** plush toy when they redeem their voucher online or in person (first 1,000). The best part of all: they get to pick the date their membership starts! Vouchers become active memberships on the day they are redeemed.

Visit louisvillezoo.org/HOL23 for more details and instructions on how to order.



MEMBERSHIP

We Heard Your Feedback!

The Louisville Zoo has transitioned to a new webstore that will provide a more efficient, streamlined experience for members and guests. The next time you visit our webstore, just reset your account password using the email address we have on file for your membership. If you need assistance, you can email us at zoomembership@louisvilleky.gov.



**SCAN HERE
FOR MORE INFO!**



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 offers.

Please check the expiration dates and restrictions on the coupons.



Expires 02/29/24

Expires 02/29/24

"An Unforgettable Experience"

Looking for a unique gift for a unique person?

Give them a holiday gift they won't soon forget with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! **Get them a Backstage Pass** for VIP access to areas not available to the public as they learn about the importance of the Zoo's conservation work and how our dedicated keeper staff care for the Zoo's animals.

Each Backstage Pass Experience is approximately 45 minutes and includes a guided cart tour with an experienced Zoo staff member, a visit to the Zoo's Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center*, a behind-the-scenes visit to one of the Zoo's animal areas, and an up-close experience with Zoo animals and their care team. This program is for ages 6 and up, and all children ages 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult with a separate ticket. Choose from areas like our sloths, rhinos, penguins or seals & sea lions!

** Sloth backstage experience does not include a visit to the Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center.*



To reserve your spot visit
louisvillezoo.org/backstage
or scan the QR code.



Our Jaguar's Journey

At the Louisville Zoo, our commitment to wildlife conservation drives us to take significant steps for the well-being of endangered species. Jaguars, facing severe threats in the wild, benefit from our active involvement in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Jaguar Species Survival Plan (SSP). Recently, Lebron, our beloved male jaguar, embarked on a crucial mission to the Little Rock Zoo to become a companion to the female jaguar there.

This transition also opens the door for a new chapter at our Zoo, as we embrace the opportunity to create a dynamic new red panda habitat that meets evolving welfare standards. Anticipate year-round outdoor viewing, potential breeding opportunities, and immersive VIP tours in the upcoming red panda facility, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to animal welfare and conservation efforts. Stay tuned for more updates as we embark on this exciting transformation in early 2024!

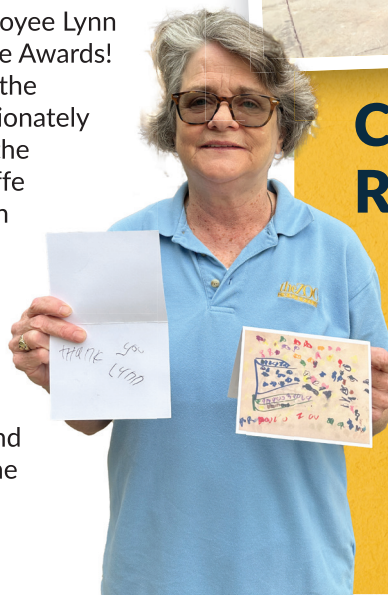
SNAP a Photo

Don't miss our latest attraction at the front entrance – a vibrant photo area featuring delightful animal cutouts! Capture unforgettable moments as you enter and exit the Zoo, surrounded by lively and colorful backdrops.



A Blossoming Friendship

The Louisville Zoo is proud that our seasonal employee Lynn Farrow was nominated for the 2023 Louisville Rose Awards! Lynn, one of 64 outstanding finalists representing the pinnacle of Louisville hospitality and tourism, passionately assists visitors at various Zoo locations, including the Conservation Carousel, Lorikeet Landing, and giraffe feeding stations. During her inaugural season, Lynn forged a special bond with 11-year-old Rafael, known as "Raf" among Zoo staff. This friendship blossomed as Lynn went above and beyond, crafting a personalized badge and collaborating with her supervisor to create a custom "faux carousel operations sensory board" for Raf, who has autism spectrum disorder. Lynn's dedication and inclusivity exemplify the exceptional experience the Louisville Zoo offers.



Carousel Renovations

The Louisville Zoo's 104-year-old carousel is currently closed and getting a fresh coat of paint. Look forward to riding again in the Spring of 2024!

A QUEST FOR QANNIK:

Louisville Zoo's Polar Bear Seeks a Mate

The Louisville Zoo team is abuzz with excitement as plans are set in motion to find a suitable partner for Qannik, our beloved rescued polar bear. This pivotal announcement comes on the heels of the Louisville Zoo's persistent, long-term campaign to secure breeding permission for Qannik. Our accomplishment marks a significant milestone in our Zoo's commitment to polar bear conservation and the broader initiative to foster a healthy, genetically diverse population of polar bears in human care.

A landmark collaboration between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Association of Zoos & Aquariums, Kentucky U.S. Senator Rand Paul and his State Director, Brigadier General (retired) Rob Givens, along with Louisville Zoo leadership, came together to help rescued polar bears, like Qannik, residing in zoological facilities participate in the AZA's cooperative breeding program.

Louisville Zoo director Dan Maloney expressed gratitude for the cooperation that led to this decisive turning point. "We are grateful for all the efforts on behalf of Qannik and all her fellow, rescued bears. We are hopeful for this next chapter. Polar bears will benefit from our assistance as they strive to survive and thrive. Stakeholder partnerships play an integral role in safeguarding the future of these iconic, vulnerable animals. It is also the most natural life path for Qannik to bear and raise a cub," said Maloney.

Louisville Zoo's subsequent steps to find Qannik a mate will rely on collaboration with other AZA-accredited institutions, highlighting the interconnected network of zoos collaborating and cooperating for the greater good of wildlife conservation.



Qannik's Tale of Resilience

Qannik's journey to this point has been one of resilience and hope. Discovered on Alaska's North Slope in 2011, she faced a bleak future after separation from her mother and sibling. After days of monitoring in hopes of a reunion, the USFWS initiated a rescue operation, as

Qannik was underweight and too young to have developed essential survival skills. Her story captured national attention, and since her arrival at the Louisville Zoo's Glacier Run exhibit, she has become a favorite ambassador for polar bears worldwide.

As a wild-born bear, Qannik's unique genetics present a valuable contribution in maintaining a robust and healthy polar bear population in managed care. The quest to find her a mate is not merely a matter of companionship; it is a strategic move to ensure the survival and well-being of future generations of polar bears.





The Urgency of Conservation

Polar bears, one of the Arctic's most iconic species, and are classified as "vulnerable" according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. With an estimated global population of only 25,000, polar bears face challenges such as pollution, disturbance of their habitat (particularly denning sites for females) due to Arctic oil exploration, and the impact of climate change on sea ice.

Sea ice degradation jeopardizes their primary hunting grounds for seals, their main prey. As the

ice season shrinks, polar bears face a reduction in available food, impacting their survival. Louisville Zoo's commitment to Qannik's journey brings to the forefront a broader conservation narrative aimed at preserving their lineage and safeguarding these magnificent predators in the face of escalating challenges.

We invite you to follow along as we embark on this thrilling new adventure in wildlife preservation and conservation. Be sure to connect with us on social media to see more updates as they become available.

Keeper Anna training Qannik, the polar bear

WILDLIFE CHEERS: REFLECTING AND GIVING BACK

As we reflect on the end of another year, the Louisville Zoo would like to take a moment to thank you for your commitment, advocacy, and passion for wildlife and our role in the conservation of species.

Together, through your support of the Louisville Zoo Fund, special projects, education programs, events, membership and more, you collectively help the Zoo feed and care for over 1,000 animals representing 229 different species. It takes a lot to care for these beautiful, special creatures annually and we greatly appreciate your investment in their lives.

Philanthropic gifts ranging from \$5 to \$5 million support the well-being of the animals as well as the overall growth and maintenance of the Louisville Zoo — a treasure to all who visit. Recognized as the leading kid-friendly attraction by Kentucky Living Magazine and honored as the 2023 Business of the Year by the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children, we take pride in being the most-visited attraction in the region. To us, this

recognition reflects our Zoo's accessibility and inclusivity to anyone wishing to partake in the Zoo experience. This accessibility allows us to facilitate meaningful connections among visitors, our dedicated staff, and the diverse array of animals. These connections foster a deeper emotional bond, contributing to the overall success of the animals and, in turn, inspiring actions that benefit species conservation.

The Zoo is a place of fun, excitement, tranquility, learning and healing because of the perfect combination of humans, animals and nature. This holiday season, we ask you to consider a gift to the Louisville Zoo Fund. Your generous gift will ensure our animals continue to thrive under the care of our dedicated keeper team — and that the Zoo remains a valued, trusted resource for all who need it.

By scanning the code on the next page, you can support the continued success of the Zoo. Thank you for your consideration. We hope to see you soon at the Zoo!

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR ZOO

To learn about other ways you can make an impact at the Zoo, please review the list below and contact Kelly Grether at (502) 238-5615 or Kelly.Grether@louisvilleky.gov

- 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



Keeper Angela caring for Peanut, the wallaby joey.

To support your Zoo visit
louisvillezoo.org/donate
or scan the QR code.



Keeper Shea training Lumpy Jr. and Dolph the Aldabra tortoises

2023 RECAP

As we approach the end of 2023, we reflect on this remarkable year made possible by our dedicated members, docents, volunteers, donors, corporate partners, Foundation and Friends of the Zoo boards, as well as our medical practitioners and partners. You have all played a vital role in ensuring the continued well-being and exceptional care of the Zoo's beloved animals.

Amidst the winter's chill, we invite you to warm your spirit with a glimpse into the year's accomplishments, from captivating new animal friends to critical conservation efforts. Join us on a journey as we unwrap the stories of resilience, growth, and the unwavering commitment that has defined the Louisville Zoo in 2023.



#1

**Kid-friendly attraction
by Kentucky Living and
place to take the kids in
summer by LEO Weekly**

2023

**Business of the Year by
Kentucky Council for
Exceptional Children**

- **Launched Planet Savers sponsored by Ford Motor Company: a program encouraging people of all ages to support and nurture compassion for animals and the environment through action**
- **Initiated construction on the new David and Patricia Daulton Family Education Building and the renovation of the MetaZoo Discovery Center**
- **Named one of the top 10 Halloween Festivals in the United States by thetravel.com**



Introduced captivating new animals including Sundara, a male red panda; Lucy, a female toco toucan; and celebrated the birth of Rowdy, a male babirusa piglet.



Welcomed 46 new Chilean flamingos, becoming the largest Chilean flamingo flock in North America.



Celebrated the births of 28 kits in our Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center. 21 kits and five adults were later transferred to Colorado for release into the wild.

CELEBRATE 2023



- Zoomed “throo” the Zoo with 2,666 runners during our 30th annual Throo the Zoo 5k Run/Walk presented by Norton Audubon Hospital
- Hosted more than 88,000 guests at Boo at the Zoo presented by Meijer
- Connected over 66,000 guests to new cultures during Wild Lights Lantern Festival
- Featured Sean Kenney's Nature Connects®, a thought-provoking summer attraction featuring LEGO® bricks

- Marked the 2nd consecutive year of Sensory-Friendly Sundays and KultureCity Sensory Inclusive™ Certification
- Welcomed over 900,000 guests through our gates, with a portion of each membership and admission purchase supporting wildlife conservation efforts

- Formed partnership with Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KYDFWR), Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Purdue University, and University of Kentucky to hatch, raise and release eastern hellbenders
- Commenced work with KYDFWR, Eastern Kentucky University and Murray State University to install two MOTUS towers in our state, a wildlife tracking system that monitors the movements of migratory birds, bats and insects fitted with transponders



Raised \$13,710 for EEHV research, in honor of elephant calf Fitz.



Expanded our Monarchs and Milkweed project with the installation of two new community gardens with partners Louisville Grows and Jefferson Memorial Forest.



Engaged nearly 800 campers during our innovative Zoo education programs.





theZOO
LOUISVILLE

HOLIDAY

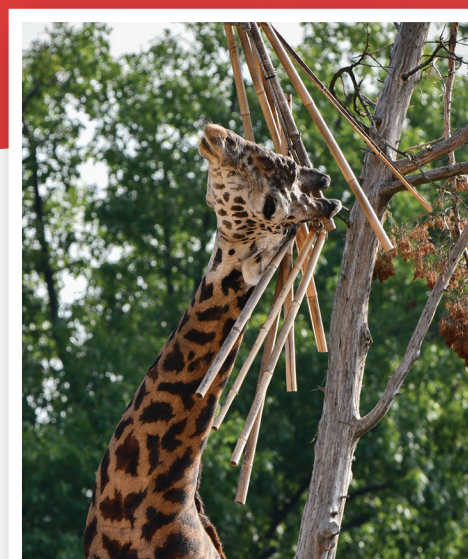


Unique and Memorable Goodies

Find one-of-a-kind gifts for everyone on your list in the Gift Shop. Enjoy a variety of handmade and eco-friendly items, wild Louisville Zoo apparel and an amazing variety of animal plushies. Zoo members receive 10% off select items. The Main Plaza Gift Shop is open daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day). Admission to the Zoo is not required to shop. Can't make it to the Zoo? Shop online for Zoo favorites at shop.louisvillezoo.org.

Gift for the Animals

Help your favorite Zoo animals get new enrichment items! These enrichment items increase behavioral choices, provide engagement and stimulation, and draw out species-appropriate behaviors and abilities to enhance animal well-being. Check out our online wishlist and give a gift to the animals this season at louisvillezoo.org/wishlist.



Give Back & Clear Out!

'Tis the season for upgrades! If you find yourself parting ways with old shoes or smart devices, here are fantastic ways to give back:

For those upgrading smart devices, consider recycling your used electronics right here at the Zoo through ECO-CELL. This organization supports gorilla conservation by raising funds and reducing the demand for coltan through recycled cell phones. The money raised aids in habitat protection, monitoring, education about gorilla conservation and more. Help save gorillas in the wild this holiday season by dropping your old devices off at the box on the Zoo's front plaza.

And don't forget about your old shoes! Trade them for a cause at the Louisville Zoo by dropping them off at our donation box in the membership office. We've partnered with WaterStep, an organization committed to providing safe water to communities in need. Your donated shoes play a crucial role in supporting clean water projects worldwide. Join us in making a positive impact this holiday season! Learn more at louisvillezoo.org/waterstep.



ADOPT Your Favorite Animal

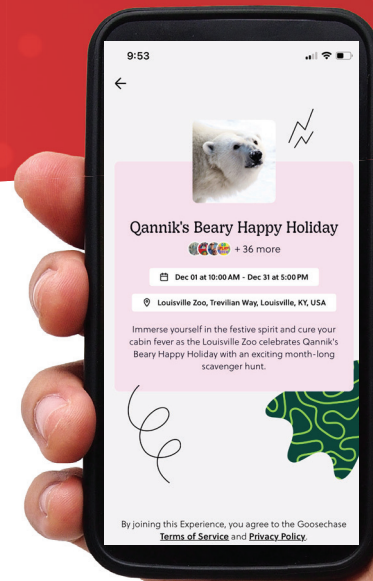
Become a symbolic parent to your favorite Zoo animal or adopt one for your friends and family! Our Standard, Plush and Premium ADOPTS packages are available for delivery or pick up at the Zoo. Looking for last-minute options? Purchase a digital package and print off a certificate and fact sheet at home — it's the perfect gift when pressed for time!

Winter Scavenger Hunt

Throughout December, we're transforming your Zoo Plaza into a winter wonderland, complete with holiday-themed decorations. Immerse yourself in the festive spirit and cure your cabin fever with an exciting month-long scavenger hunt.

Create warm memories and be sure to say "season's greetings" to polar bear Qannik during her favorite time of year!

Make it a beary happy holiday with us!



Extra, Extra Special Gifts

Honor or celebrate a friend, family member, special customer or client with a specially commissioned Louisville Stoneware plaque in Irvin and Alice's Garden near the sloth exhibit!

Installation dates will vary depending on production timelines and the weather.





Citizen-Science Saturday

Member Price: \$10 adult and \$7 child

**Non-Member Price: \$20 adult and \$15 child
(FREE for 2 and under)**

Tickets on sale January 3, 2024.

Are you an aspiring scientist? Do you love learning about the natural world and want to help mitigate the environmental damage humans cause? Join us in 2024 at the Louisville Zoo as we share information about how you can get involved with Citizen Science! Also called community science, citizen science is the collective term for public involvement in scientific research. It can be anything from counting birds to sampling air quality to identifying images caught by wildlife cameras! The projects we will explore in this program relate to Louisville Zoo conservation initiatives while also encouraging you (and your loved ones) to explore the outdoors.

Great Backyard Bird Count — January 20
Citizen Science Month — April 13

Sponsored by

**Great
Clips®**

Sensory-Friendly Sunday

Member Price: \$10 adult and \$7 child

**Non-Member Price: \$20 adult and \$15 child
(FREE for 2 and under)**

On sale now! 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. Zoo walks will include animal information provided by Zoo docents and staff about your favorite ambassador animals and call attention to sensory stops on Zoo grounds like our accessible playground or the Snow Leopard Cub House presented by PNC. Program participants will have the opportunity to collaborate with docents and staff to decide their walking path to ensure you see your favorite areas before the Zoo opens to the public.

January 14 | February 11 | March 17 | April 14

Reminder: The Zoo is certified Sensory Inclusive by KultureCity and offers FREE accommodations for all guests with sensory issues during regular hours. Sensory Bags are available for families to checkout free of charge the day of their visit.

Learn more at louisvillezoo.org/kulturecity



Nature Play

Member Price: \$35 | Non-Member Price: \$40
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

On sale January 3, 2024. Little feet, big adventures! This drop-off early childhood program encourages your little one to get outside and explore. Participants will engage in child-led nature exploration activities on Zoo grounds in this rain or shine outdoor program. We will test our gross and fine motor skills, practice observation, learn about interesting animal and plant information, and more! Program for children ages 4 to 5 who can use the restroom without adult assistance.

March 13 | April 17 | May 15 | June 12



Sippy Cup Strolls

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

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

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

On sale now! 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 between 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. The fun starts at 8:45 a.m. and lasts until 10:30 a.m. Then, enjoy a day of "choose your adventure" at the Zoo!

Themes	Dates	Description
Zoo Favorites	Mar. 15, 16 Apr. 24, 26	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	Mar. 22, 23 May 3	Wake up with a roar! Join us as we trek across Africa to learn all about the amazing animals (big and small!) found on the savanna.
Glacier Walk	Mar. 27, 29 May 10, 11	Walk don't (Glacier) run to join us this morning as we learn about what makes cold weather animals special.
Camouflage	Apr. 12, 13 May 17, 18	Ever played hide and seek by accident? Join us in finding the Zoo's best camouflaged residents as we learn about all the different ways animals can hide.
Forest Friends	Apr. 19, 20 May 22, 24	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.

Breakfast with the Beasts

9 – 11 a.m.

Member Price: \$25 adult and \$20 child

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

On sale January 3, 2024. 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.

Orangutans — March 2

Amur Tigers — April 6

Lions — June 1



Spring Break Camps

On sale January 3, 2024

April 1 – 5

Grades 1 – 3: Adventure Camp

Do you have a special child in your life seeking a wild adventure? Look no further than this exciting animal-filled camp! Explore areas of the Zoo untouched by most and hunt for the treasure of knowledge as we track, climb and ride our way to adventure!

April 1 – 5

Grades 3 – 5: Bright Beasts

Animals across the globe need light to survive. Many animals use light every day to help find others, hide from unwanted eyes, and even create their own light through bioluminescence! Put on your sunglasses to explore our glowing world and take a closer look at how animals light their own way in this light-filled universe!



Single Day Camps

On sale January 3, 2024

April 8

Grades 1 — 3: Keeper for a Day

Get a glimpse into the daily life of a keeper here at the Louisville Zoo. Campers will learn how Zoo keepers provide the best possible care for our animal ambassadors. At the day's conclusion, campers will depart with unique understandings of the animal care methods employed by our keepers for the well-being of these precious animals.



May 3

Grades 3 — 5: Plants and Pollinators

Have you ever wondered why flowers bloom or how a butterfly flutters? Plants come in every shape and size and their pollinators do as well. Butterflies, bees, lemurs, bats and even frogs can be pollinators. The many ways they pollinate are vastly different! Your camper will learn what it takes to be a pollinator. Then, they will learn how to help our pollinator pals through actions they can take right at home!

May 21

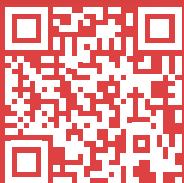
Grades 1 — 3: Picky Eaters

If you think your camper is a picky eater, wait until you hear about some of the picky eaters in the animal kingdom! The pickiest eaters refuse to eat anything but the one thing they like, and their chosen food may even need special preparation before they are willing to chow down. From anteaters to pandas — your camper will explore just how picky the animal kingdom can be!



Summer camps go on sale February 14!

Check our website to get a sneak peek of topics in early February at louisvillezoo.org/camps



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



WATCH IT UNFOLD

MetaZoo's Ongoing Transformation!

It's been an exciting year for the MetaZoo as dreams, plans and fundraising have evolved into tangible progress!

If you've visited the Louisville Zoo within the last few months, you have likely noticed a construction site adjacent to the MetaZoo Discovery Center where a picturesque cabin-like structure is being erected. This is the future "David and Patricia Daulton Family Education Building," and it will encompass the new offices for our dedicated MetaZoo educators. Presently, our educators share an office space inside the MetaZoo Discovery Center along with student classrooms and, of course, the habitats of our beloved animal ambassadors. The creation of this new office building will allow for the growth of our Animal Ambassador Program. Once the new office building

is complete, renovations will begin inside the MetaZoo Discovery Center to create an immersive, engaging experience for both guests and our animal ambassadors.

One of the exciting plans for the Discovery Center will take shape in the "Kentucky Waters" room. With the potential to house four different animals, this space presents the perfect opportunity for guests to witness natural animal behaviors in a safe, secure environment. While plans are still being finalized, the goal is to allow guests — through camps, classes and Backstage Pass experiences — to encounter scenes like a porcupine climbing overhead or a hawk flying from point to point. Education Curator Kim Allgeier explained:

"Creating experiences where people can make personal connections to wildlife is one of the best ways we can demonstrate the quality of care we provide our animals, as well as allowing our guests a greater understanding, appreciation and respect for animals. The more we can do this, the better chance we have of deepening awareness about the critical need for wildlife conservation and the importance of living in balance with the animals that share our planet."

This project of \$2,737,350 was 100 percent funded by private dollars. Donations were solicited by the Zoo



Foundation Board, Zoo staff and proceeds received by Friends of the Louisville Zoo from their two major events: Zoofari and Brew at the Zoo. A total of 19 donors contributing \$10,000 or more toward the project will be recognized on plaques inside the renovated MetaZoo building, while all donors that contributed \$1,000 or more will be honored on a sign placed on the exterior of the MetaZoo upon completion of the project. Thank you to the Friends of the Louisville Zoo Board and our generous event attendees for their contributions and support of this important project.

Renovations are not the only exciting news coming from our MetaZoo. We recently welcomed two striped skunks from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado. Brothers Harry and Neville, named after Harry Potter characters, were two of six kits born as the result of a breeding recommendation. They arrived in September when they were 10 weeks old.



Striped skunks are the most common skunk in North America. They are naturally quite smart and very curious. In the short time Harry and Neville have been in Louisville, staff have already been able to pick up on their personality differences. Harry tends to be more docile, while Neville is more curious and the first to investigate new situations. Both are highly food motivated and enjoy puzzle feeders that encourage their natural foraging behaviors.

Harry and Neville are easy to tell apart from one another due to their fur coats. They both have the iconic white back stripe skunks are known for. However, Harry is overall gray in color while Neville is a dark black. The skunks are currently in standard

Reptar



quarantine under the care of their keepers and the Zoo animal health team.

We also welcomed Reptar, our new inland bearded dragon, that is around 4 years old. This curious guy loves carrots, super worms and especially crickets. Reptar is quite the adventurer, known for his daring climbs and exploration around his habitat. He's an impressively large bearded dragon, living up to his namesake. While MetaZoo renovations are currently underway, keep an eye out for Reptar once the enhancements are complete. His antics are sure to engage and amaze!

The David and Patricia Daulton Family Education Building is scheduled for completion by the end of 2023. Once construction begins on the MetaZoo Discovery Center, our animal ambassadors will be temporarily moved to other locations throughout the Zoo, and the MetaZoo will be closed to the public. We are estimating the completion of Discovery Center construction in late fall of 2024. We hope you'll stay tuned and follow along as we enter this new era of education!

For now, you can still visit the MetaZoo Discovery Center to meet our animal ambassadors on habitat rotation. We'll be sharing more information on our social media channels about where you can see our MetaZoo animal ambassadors once construction begins. Don't forget to follow us @louisvillezoo on Facebook and X, and @louisvillezooofficial on Instagram, so you can learn all about the latest news and get updates on our MetaZoo metamorphosis!

EVENTS

BOO at the ZOO PRESENTED BY **meijer**

The Louisville Zoo wants to thank everyone that attended Boo at the Zoo presented by Meijer. A special thanks goes out to our sponsors, volunteers, staff and guests that made all this extravaganza possible! We look forward to seeing you again in 2024 for more delightful, not frightful fun!



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2023 Costume Contest Winners



The Zoo welcomed over 88,000 guests during this 18-night event!



Volunteers

Thanks to all the individuals and groups for contributing your time and talent during Boo at the Zoo presented by Meijer.

A total of 857 volunteers contributed 5,966 hours, a value of \$98,439 to the Zoo.

And special thanks to UPS for their help with setup and breakdown.

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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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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.

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