

TRUNKLINE

WILD LIGHTS

BACK WITH NEW
LANTERNS!



Party for the Planet

April 1 - 30

Powered by **LGE** and **KU**
Foundation





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

bch
AD+PR agency

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THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

Hear from Director Dan Maloney on the future of elephants, Punch and Mikki, at the Louisville Zoo and what this means for the Zoo moving forward.



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EARTH MONTH

Powered by LG&E and KU Foundation

One day isn't enough to celebrate the wonder of our planet. During the month of April, enjoy special activities PLUS special admission discounts powered by our sponsor, LG&E and KU Foundation!



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SEE YOU AT SUNDOWN!

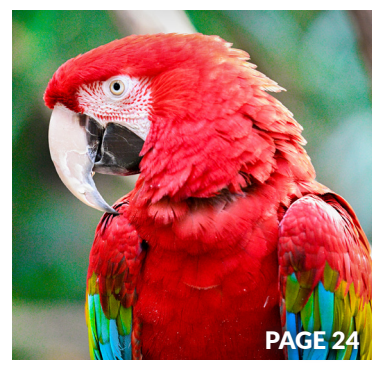
Our popular lantern festival is back and brighter than ever! The wonder of Wild Lights is sure to create glowing smiles and bright memories for all.



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PLAYING BIRDOKU

Learn what it takes to manage the Zoo's extensive collection of bird species and read about some of the new members of our "flock" that arrived in 2023.



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ALSO INSIDE...
Education camps and classes, new animals at the Zoo, spring events and so 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 online 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.



THE *Elephant* IN THE ROOM



For more than 50 years, Louisville Zoo guests have been delighted and awed by the elephants in our care. We currently feature only two females — Asian elephant, Punch, arrived in 1973, and African elephant, Mikki, followed in 1987. These beloved giants have inspired us daily to live in better balance with our planet and protect the wildlife that share it with us.

However, like many other institutions, our Zoo has arrived at the crossroads of tradition and reality. The gap continues to widen between what we can realistically provide our aging elephants and the clearer understanding we have of their needs. Over the past half-century, our recognition of the species' complex social structure has evolved dramatically. An experienced matriarch typically leads a herd comprised of her aunts, her sisters, her daughters, her nieces, her young sons, and even her grandchildren. If enough resources are available, elephant herds can contain dozens of individuals.

Recent events, including the loss of Mikki's young son, Fitz, to the insidious elephant herpes virus, have prompted us to reassess the dynamics of our elephant duo — which now falls below the minimum herd size mandated by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Punch, at 53, is considered geriatric and Mikki, at 37, is gracefully entering her senior years. For every resident animal, we create a care plan for all stages of their life.

We have reached the point where it is imperative that we secure a place for Mikki and Punch where the bonded pair are both able to retire together, and that their complex social needs are met through the end of their lives.

With a limited window of opportunity available, we have made the tough decision to plan for their relocation to The Elephant Sanctuary in Hohenwald, Tennessee, which is AZA-accredited and the nation's largest natural-habitat elephant refuge. This sanctuary was developed specifically to care for aging elephants and provide them with the companionship of a herd. This relocation will ensure that Punch and Mikki receive the highest standard of care, consistent with the level they are accustomed to in Louisville.

Animal management standards are ever evolving. This shift in elephant care mirrors the journey of AZA-accredited zoos decades ago to redefine the state of gorillas in human care. While that shift represented substantial changes for many zoos, it significantly enhanced the overall quality of life for great apes in zoos and led to the creation of Gorilla Forest here at the Louisville Zoo.

We are proud to support cooperative efforts to ensure the best environment for elephants in AZA-accredited care. Moving forward, we are committed to maintaining the strong emotional bonds our community shares with our elephants and wild elephants worldwide.

Your Zoo will share regular updates on Mikki and Punch in their new home, while continuing to support elephant conservation organizations.

To provide our community with ample time to visit with Mikki and Punch, their move is intended for early 2025. Starting now, the Louisville Zoo animal care team will begin acclimating Punch and Mikki to the transportation process. You may see a large crate in the elephant habitat that will be incorporated into training exercises as we prepare for their eventual move.

While this change means that the Louisville Zoo will be without elephants for some time, it also presents an opportunity for transformation. The elephant enclosure will be repurposed into a bigger habitat for our rhinos, Sindi and Letterman. This will provide us the space to potentially welcome a new species for Louisville Zoo — okapi, the rare and remarkable forest giraffe.

For future master planning, we will consider a new, larger and more accommodating elephant habitat with greater space, additional shade and the capability to hold a multi-generational herd. However, we approach this vision with the utmost responsibility, taking into account the high capital costs for an updated, modern elephant exhibit (currently estimated at more than \$100 million) and potential impacts on other essential Zoo projects.

In the next few years, visitors can look forward to an exciting \$40

MILLION EXPANSION — THE LARGEST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IN LOUISVILLE ZOO HISTORY — FEATURING WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE KENTUCKY AND INDIANA REGION INCLUDING BISON, ELK, BOBCATS AND MANY MORE.

SUCH DECISIONS, ESPECIALLY THOSE INVOLVING ICONIC SPECIES LIKE ELEPHANTS, ARE MADE WITH THE UTMOST CARE AND CONSIDERATION. IT IS OUR CONTINUED PLEDGE TO ALWAYS UPHOLD THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF ANIMAL WELLBEING. CHANGE, ESPECIALLY IN MATTERS SO CLOSE TO THE HEART, IS MET WITH A MIX OF EMOTIONS. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT AS WE EMBARK TOGETHER ON THIS JOURNEY TOWARD ENSURING THE BEST POSSIBLE FUTURE FOR PUNCH, MIKKI AND ALL YOUR ZOO'S RESIDENTS.

SEE YOU SOON AT THE ZOO,

DAN MALONEY
LOUISVILLE ZOO DIRECTOR



GREETINGS

Happy New Year – and congratulations to the Louisville Zoo on celebrating its 55th Anniversary in 2024!

Since 1969, our Zoo has been an incredible provider of educational opportunities for young Louisvillians. Research is clear: by introducing our kids into learning environments at an early age, we are setting them up for success in the long term. One of my top priorities as Mayor is to make Universal Pre-K a reality for all three- and four-year-olds across Louisville for this reason. Our kids deserve the very best educational resources we can provide – both inside and outside the traditional classroom.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the premier national organization on early childhood education, lists the benefits of outdoor play as follows: it invites children to learn science, it creates opportunities for social interaction and collaboration, it promotes physical health, it invites new contexts for learning, it promotes better sleep, it gives children a chance to take appropriate risks, it may lead to better learning outcomes, it supports STEM skills, and it anchors children to the real world. Many, if not all, of these goals are better served when children play in the natural environment with access to natural materials, as opposed to solely having access to artificial and manufactured environments.

With spring on the horizon, it's tough to think of a more exciting classroom than the Louisville Zoo. With drop-off programs like Nature Play to encourage outdoor adventure and curiosity, as well as programs to bring the whole family together like Sippy Cup Strolls, it creates the perfect balance of recreation and education for your smallest learners. I encourage you and your families to explore all the educational opportunities that our Zoo has to offer. There truly is something for everyone at the Louisville Zoo!

Sincerely,
Mayor Craig Greenberg



GET HEALTHY WALKING CLUB

Presented by



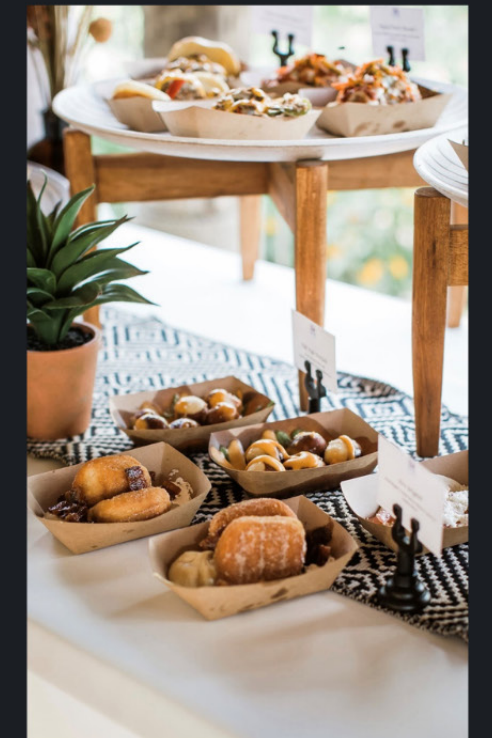
SCAN HERE to register!

NOW - OCT. 31, 2024 • DAILY FROM 8 - 9:15 A.M.



LOUISVILLE ZOO EVENTS & CATERING

BEAUTIFUL VENUES & HAND-CRAFTED MEALS



2024

PICNICS | SOIREES | BUYOUTS

LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/PRIVATE-EVENTS
EMAIL US @ LOUISVILLEZOOEVENTS@KMSSA.COM



Your mission. Together.



party for the planet

A Month-Long Celebration of the Earth

Powered by **LG&E** and **KU** Foundation

One day isn't enough to celebrate the wonder of our planet and promote the need to protect it – so the Louisville Zoo is hosting a monthlong party! During the month of April, enjoy special weekend activities PLUS special admission discounts powered by LG&E and KU Foundation.



SCAN HERE for more information on Party for the Planet!



ZooPoopyDoo Compost Sale April 6, 13, 20 & 27 7:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Get your garden ready with high-quality ZooPoopyDoo compost. Cost is \$45 per scoop. Scoops will be placed in your truck bed or trailer (no car trunks). No bags are provided. Visit louisvillezoo.org/zoopoopydoo for details.

Earth Day at the Zoo April 21 Eco-Partners: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m

Enjoy \$5 off general Zoo admission PLUS FREE parking powered by LG&E and KU Foundation. See community eco-partner displays and learn about their organizations' community impact. Come join the fun and learn what you can do to help save our planet. Discount available at Zoo ticket windows only and cannot be applied to online purchases.

Kids in Action March 8 – April 14

Calling all who love our planet: join our Kids in Action program this April! Families and individuals of all ages are invited to choose an environmentally beneficial activity to carry out in your own backyards. Then, submit photos (and an explanation) to showcase your results! On April 22, we will feature your work on our website and present a video retrospective on our social channels. Additionally, we will select winners in each category to receive an exciting Zoo prize package!

Funday Mondays April 8, 15, 22 & 29 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Enjoy \$7.25 Zoo admission, powered by LG&E and KU Foundation. Parking is not included and will be charged at the Zoo admission windows.



**Plant Sale
April 27
10 a.m. – While Supplies Last!**
Browse a selection of native plants available for purchase at the Zoo. Whether you're just starting out or have been gardening for years, you are sure to find the perfect plants to benefit the pollinators that visit your at-home habitat. .



Recycling Weekends

Join us weekends in April to learn how recycling programs help our planet. Organizations and programs that help benefit the air, water, land, and of course, animals, will be featured each weekend. See louisvillezoo.org/earth for additional information and a list of programs.

RECYCLING	DATE	TIME
Crayon Recycling	April 6	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Shoe Recycling	April 13	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Document Shredding	April 20	10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

NEW STRIPES IN TOWN!

The Louisville Zoo welcomed Timmy, a 6-year-old male Amur tiger, last year from the Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, Michigan. His keepers say he is very interactive during training sessions and enjoys goat's milk as a treat. Timmy is now on rotation with female Amur tiger Sasha at Tiger Taiga. Timmy has joined us as a part of a breeding recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Amur Tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP). This plan serves to help maintain genetic diversity of animals in managed care.

A "TREE'T" FOR THE ANIMALS

Thank you to our friends at Joe Creason Park for donating a fallen Osage orange tree and Louisville Parks and Recreation for transporting it to our Zoo. The Osage orange tree is known for its high density and resistance to rot, making for the perfect habitat equipment! Its sturdy branches have been used for decades to enhance animal habitats and can be seen in the lemur exhibit, Islands Pavilion, Gorilla Forest and more.



The Zoo recently introduced a new tree-hugger to the sloth habitat: 7-year-old, female Linnaeus's two-toed sloth, Fern! She will be on habitat rotation with female sloth, Sunni.

Have you seen the new hammock that was installed in the sloth habitat? Though the space is temperature-controlled, when it's cold outside, our sloths enjoy lounging on the higher platform in their exhibit. On warmer days, they enjoy laying on the floor. You can see Sunni, Fern and their new hammock in the Americas Zone across from the Chilean flamingos.



Brooks is our new male bald eagle! Brooks came to the Louisville Zoo from Three Rivers Avian Center, where he was rehabilitated in 2023 after flying into a passing truck. The injury was so severe that a portion of his wing was amputated. He was suffering from high lead levels, which may have caused his collision. A way to help protect bald eagles is to avoid lead ammunition while hunting which can in up in the prey they ingest. Brooks has been successfully introduced to female Shelby and is currently on exhibit in the Americas Zone.



METAZOO UPDATE

The first phase of the Louisville Zoo's MetaZoo Discovery Center renovation is complete with the construction of the David and Patricia Daulton Education Building. This new addition will provide space for education staff.

For phase two, the MetaZoo Discovery Center has closed to create even more enriching accommodations for our animal ambassadors. Please note that MetaZoo animal ambassadors like our bearded dragon, opossum, eastern screech owl and more will not be visible during construction. It is estimated that the MetaZoo update will be completed by the end of 2024.

A NEW “BO” FOR POLAR BEAR QANNIK

Amidst the wintery landscape of the Louisville Zoo’s Glacier Run, a new star is emerging on the icy stage! Borealis, affectionally called “Bo” by his keepers, is a 5-year-old male polar bear that just arrived in February.

Hailing from the Henry Vilas Zoo in Wisconsin, Bo brings with him a spirit of curiosity, an affinity for lard (a high fat treat that is healthy for polar bears), and a significant heft of over 1,000 lbs.! Now that his quarantine period is complete, the large bear has begun his introduction to his new habitat, paving the way for a promising partnership with the Louisville Zoo’s beloved, rescued polar bear, Qannik.

You may have read about Qannik’s breeding status change in our winter 2023 edition of Trunkline magazine. The announcement followed a successful, persistent, long-term campaign by the Louisville Zoo to secure breeding permission for Qannik. A landmark collaboration between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), Kentucky U.S. Senator Rand Paul and his State Director Rob Givens, along with Louisville Zoo leadership, all came together to help rescued polar bears, like Qannik, residing in zoological facilities participate in the AZA’s cooperative breeding program.

As Bo steps into the role of breeding mate, it will mark a pivotal moment in the Louisville Zoo’s commitment to polar bear conservation. Keepers say that while the two bears can smell each other and are very much aware (and seem excited!) about each other’s presence. The Glacier Run team is looking forward to a measured, step-by-step introduction between the two bears.

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. In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges, their pairing serves as a testament to the power of collective action. Through collaboration, dedication, and a shared vision for a sustainable future, we can ensure that polar bears continue to touch the hearts of the people who can help them thrive. The fate of polar bears lies not just in the Arctic, but also in our hands. Together, we can ensure that their legacy endures for centuries to come.



THEN THERE WERE THREE

Welcome the newest addition to the bongo habitat, Gladys! Gladys is a 4-year-old female eastern bongo with unique and distinctive crooked horns. She’s exploring her new space and is getting accustomed to her new surroundings. Her keepers note her friendly demeanor when taking lettuce leaves from their hands though she can be a bit skittish when interacting with things she hasn’t seen before! Gladys is currently being introduced to older female bongo, Nailah, and will be introduced to male bongo, Kai, soon! Come see her in the Africa Zone.

NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

You spoke up and we listened. We appreciate your patience as we continue implementing our new membership system. The upgraded software includes easier access and more consistent experiences online and in person. As part of the transition, some of our old cards and all those using our app may experience issues when scanning in at the gates. If your card cannot be scanned at the gate, you will have to get a new one before you will be able to access the Zoo.

We are asking anyone who has not collected a card since January 1, 2024, to get a new card. We encourage you to swing by and get a new card printed on a slower day. If you are unable to get a new card ahead of time, please plan to stop by the front windows before you are admitted. We will have our membership booth open on the front plaza during peak times to assist with card prints and speed up the process.

Renew and pick up your Zoo membership before it gets too WILD out there!

Area schools will be releasing students for spring or session breaks as early as March 16. Spring Break is one of the busiest times of the year for our admission and membership staff. Beat the crowds: renew online and pick up your membership card before Spring Break to avoid long lines and get to the fun faster! Go to louisvillezoo.org/member. Click the blue box labeled “Join/Renew” and choose “Renew Now” in the webstore popup. If it is your first time using the new system, choose the “Forgot Password?” option and a link to setup your new password will be emailed to you.

New Features

Our new system uses your email address to prevent duplicate accounts and any related issues. Once you have your account setup in the new system (reminder: choose “Forgot Password?” if it’s your first time logging in to reset your password), you can now use the “My Benefits” tab to access discounted event tickets, education programs as well as any available one-time-use admission tickets associated with your membership. If you are unsure of the email address for your account please call (502) 459-2287 or email zoomembership@louisvilleky.gov for assistance.



WILD LIGHTS

MARCH 23 - MAY 19

Our popular lantern festival is back and brighter than ever!

Dive deep and celebrate the vibrant colors of the coral reefs, see nature come to life with interactive moving displays and explore ancient Chinese myths and legends including magnificent dragons and a breathtaking phoenix tunnel. The festival includes all-new illuminated archways and larger-than-life displays allowing you to become part of the magic. The wonder of Wild Lights is sure to create glowing smiles and bright memories for all. We'll see YOU at sundown!



SCAN for More Information

louisvillezoo.org/wildlights

SEE YOU AT SUNDOWN!

LIVE PERFORMANCES | INTERACTIVE FUN | COLORFUL PHOTO OPS | SPECIALTY FOOD AND BEVERAGES



Ticket on sale now for the March 22 member preview night! Members receive an extra discount to this exclusive event.



LOUISVILLE ZOO

2024

EVENTS



Safari EggVenture

March 16 – April 7
EGGsplore your Zoo with this fun virtual scavenger hunt. Play for fun or a chance to win EGGciting prizes!



Wild Lights*

March 23 – May 19
Join us at sundown when we glow WILD with all new lantern displays and nightly performances



Party for the Planet

Powered by
ICE and KU
Foundation
a month-long celebration of the Earth!



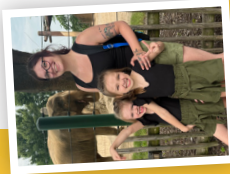
Hump Day Happy Hour*

May 8 (21+)
Enjoy cocktails and tasty appetizers along with exclusive Zoo keeper interactions afterhours in one of your favorite Zoo exhibit spaces.



Mother's Day

May 12
Moms and moms-to-be receive FREE general admission all day.



Meet Me at the Zoo

May 25: Storybook Character Day
Your favorite characters hop straight off the page and into your Zoo. Meet Curious George, Clifford the Big Red Dog and more!



Zoofari!*

June 7
Enjoy a night of red PANDAmonium!
See page 26.



Father's Day

June 16
Dads and dads-to-be receive FREE general admission all day!



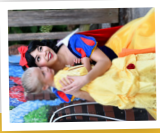
Late Night Date Night*

June 21
Get dolled up for a movie under the stars. All Barbies and Kens (and Allans) welcome! Free for members.



Meet Me at the Zoo

June 22: Royal Rendezvous
Princesses have arrived from faraway lands to open the summer season with all of their adoring (and adorable!) subjects.



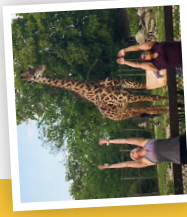
Trivia Night*

June 26 (21+)
Test your knowledge at this wild trivia night. Food and beverage specials available for purchase.



Wild Workouts*

July 1
Enjoy an evening of peaceful yoga set in some of your favorite Zoo spaces.



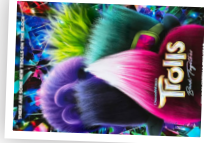
Hump Day Happy Hour*

July 10 (21+)
Cocktails and tasty appetizers are the perfect pairing for an exclusive afterhours experience.



Cinema Safari*

June 21
Crazy hairstyles encouraged but not required for this wild movie under the stars. Free for members.



Get Healthy Walking Club Expo

July 13
Presented by
NORTON PREVENTION & WELLNESS
Scan QR code for details



Santa's Summer Safari

July 20 – 21
Santa and Mrs. Claus are on summer vacation and making a stop at your Zoo! Join them for a weekend full of fun activities!



Late Night Date Night*

July 26
Fly on over for this 80s classic film landing back on the big screen. Free for members.



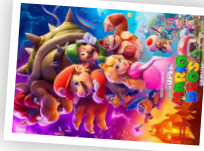
Wild Workouts*

August 2
Enjoy an evening of peaceful yoga set in some of your favorite Zoo spaces.



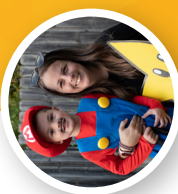
Cinema Safari*

August 9
Level up and leap over to catch this BLOCKbuster hit at your Zoo! Free for members.



Meet Me at the Zoo

August 10:
Super Back to School Bash
"Let's-a-go!" Power up and SHELL-abrate the start of a new school year with your favorite video game heroes.



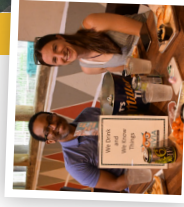
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Awareness Day

August 17
ASL interpreters will be available at several habitats, and keeper talks, and animal demos.



Trivia Night*

August 28 (21+)
Test your knowledge at this wild trivia night. Food and beverage specials available for purchase.



Wild Workouts*

September 3
Enjoy an evening of peaceful yoga set in some of your favorite Zoo spaces.



Cinema Safari*

September 13
Grim grinning ghosts come out to socialize during this Friday the 13th movie night! Free for members.



Fall Plant Sale

September 21
Check out our selection of pollinator-friendly plants.



Boo at the Zoo*

Sept. 28 – Oct. 27
Thurs. – Sun.
Join us for the sweetest party around.
Presented by **meijer**



Throo the Zoo 5K*

November 9
Race over for the wildest 5k in town!

Presented by



Qannik's Beary Happy Holiday

December 1 – 31
Celebrate with festive enrichment, decorations and a fun weekend with Santa and Mrs. Claus.



Trivia Night*

December 11 (21+)
Don your ugly holiday sweater and test your knowledge for this wildly festive reindeer game.



*Special ticket required



SEE ALL EVENTS!

louisvillezoo.org/events

SUMMER CAMP T-SHIRT CONTEST

We're bringing back a Safari Day Camp tradition! For the first time since 2018, we're inviting you to enter our Summer Camp T-shirt Design Contest!

This contest invites children ages 5 to 12 to submit t-shirt designs celebrating bears here at the Louisville Zoo and around the world. All designs must be within 12 x 12 inches and use no more than 4 colors.

Submissions are limited to one submission per person through the form on our website below. Submissions are open from 12:01 a.m. February 22 through 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 31. We will select a first and second place winner which will be announced on April 9 on the Zoo's social media channels.



2016 Contest Winner

First Prize: The winning artwork will be featured on the Summer 2024 Safari Day Camp T-shirt and the winner will receive a free week of 2024 summer camp programming.

Second Prize: The winner will receive two tickets via email to our 2024 June, July, or August Breakfast with the Beasts Program.



SCAN HERE
for more information
and full contest rules
louisvillezoo.org/tshirt



CONTEST RULES:

- Artist participants must be ages 5 – 12.
- Art submissions must celebrate bears here at the Louisville Zoo or around the world.
- Art submissions may include no more than four colors.
- Art submissions are limited to one per person.
- Contest submissions must be sent through the online form before 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, March 31.
- Those submitting photos into the contest must be over 18 and the parent / guardian of the artist. The artists of the submissions must be ages 5 – 12.
- All contest entrants agree to have their photo / art used in promotional purposes including advertising, social media, brochures and signage.

BREAKFAST WITH THE BEASTS

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

Non-member Price: \$35 adult, \$30 child

April 6 | June 1, 9 – 11 a.m.

Includes Zoo general admission

Advance purchase required.

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 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.

Parking and general admission is included with your ticket!



SENSORY-FRIENDLY SUNDAYS

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

Non-member Price: \$20 adult, \$15 child

April 14, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Includes Zoo general admission

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 can choose their walking path to ensure you see your favorite areas before the Zoo opens to the public

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.



Sponsored by
Great Clips

CITIZEN SCIENCE SATURDAYS

Member Price: \$10 adult, \$7 child
Non-member Price: \$20 adult, \$15 child

Includes Zoo general admission

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 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.



April 20, 1 – 3 p.m.

Earth Month is also Citizen Science Month! Join us and spend some time learning about the modern environmental movement and how you can get involved in cleaning up the planet right here in Louisville. We will hear from our friends at Brightside about their work cleaning up our community and from your Zoo on how reusing and recycling can help animals around the world!

NATURE PLAY

Member Price: \$35
Non-member Price: \$40

April 17 | May 15 | June 12
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

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.



SIPPY CUP STROLLS

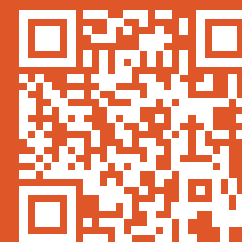
Member Price: \$20 adult, \$12 child
Non-member Price: \$30 adult, \$20 child

Includes Zoo general admission

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, 4	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	Ever played hide and seek by accident? Join us in finding and observing 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 at the Louisville Zoo to learn more about all the different forest dwellers from rain forests to deciduous forests.



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

CONSERVATION & CONVERSATIONS

Register for FREE

Virtual events: 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

In-person events: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Connect with the Zoo as we critically explore a variety of environmental and conservation topics. Each month we will meet and discuss a conservation topic that falls under one of two larger environmental education themes, Global Climate Change and Ecology. Participants will receive background information and further learning resources for each topic and are invited to participate in a series of 60-minute discussions with Zoo educators. Each conversation will provide an overview of the topic, share connections with your Louisville Zoo, and give recommendations for further learning on the topic. Some conversations will focus on in-person book discussion related to the topic and others will feature virtual discussions and include guest experts! Join the conversation as we engage community members of all ages about topics that are affecting the way we live in Louisville and how people live around the globe.

Each session is designed to work with the others to increase participants' comfort with and knowledge of conservation and natural science topics. Participants can register once and receive regular emails from the program coordinator updating them on meeting times, giving topic overviews and providing further learning resources. There is no obligation to attend every meeting and participants can opt out of the email list at any time.

Registered participants will receive the opportunity to guide the conversation by sending questions in advance, suggesting topics and will receive access to recordings of the virtual sessions.



DATE	TOPIC
March 27*	Science Communication
April 24	Environmental Crime
May 22	Invasive Species
June 26*	Poaching
July 24	AZA SAFE
August 28	One Health
September 25*	Road Ecology
October 23	Green Burial

*indicates an in-person book discussion at a Louisville Free Public Library branch. Location TBA.



Register online now for FREE!

BUTTERFLIES N' BLOOMS

FREE with admission

May 18 – September 15

Butterflies n' Blooms returns again this year, featuring native butterflies. This exhibit offers visitors the chance to get up close with hundreds of winged beauties, all while learning about the importance of pollinators and their role in supporting our ecosystem. Located near our Etscorn Garden, the butterfly house is a tranquil and interactive space where visitors can observe hundreds of free-flying native butterflies. The exhibit features a variety of plants that serve as a nectar source for the butterflies. A monarch waystation sits next to the exhibit, providing critical habitat for butterflies and nectar sources. Guests will have the opportunity to learn about the butterfly life cycle, from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly, and how these beautiful creatures contribute to the health of our environment.

Butterflies n' Blooms is included with Zoo admission and is open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., weather permitting. We hope to see you there!

Learn more about the exhibit and our efforts to help pollinators at louisvillezoo.org/butterflies.

Learn how to start your own pollinator habitat/monarch waystation at Monarchs & Mimosas at louisvillezoo.org/events.



ROPES COURSE

Special ticket required

Adventurers will see the Zoo from a whole new perspective from their perch high above the ground! Sky Trail is a high ropes adventure course consisting of many challenging elements. Guests can walk on rope bridges, stepping stones and planks while enjoying a view of the Zoo. Little ones can join the fun on our Sky Tykes course! This course is specifically for guests ages 2 – 7 but anyone under 48" can tackle this challenge.

CAROUSEL

Special ticket required

The Louisville Zoo's beloved 105-year-old carousel has a new coat of paint! Come take a look at some of the new animals featured and enjoy a ride later this spring!

BIRDOKU

Managing the Zoo's Collection of Birds



If you're a fan of logic puzzles like Sudoku, you might enjoy the challenge of curating and caring for a continuously evolving bird collection with more than 70 different species and 400 individual animals.

"It takes a lot of flexibility," says James McKinney, bird curator for the Louisville Zoo. "We work with so many different species and individuals just on a daily basis; we're always encountering something new. You need a willingness to learn and an aptitude for problem-solving."

James and his team of nine full-time keepers oversee bird care in six major areas throughout the Zoo, plus behind-the-scenes holding areas for birds that are off exhibit. But that's only one piece of the puzzle.

To ensure sustainability of bird populations in zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Louisville participates in several Species Survival Plans (SSPs). James works with curators around the country to transfer individual birds — or sometimes an entire flock — between zoos.

"It's all very coordinated to maintain a sustainable managed population that isn't taking animals from the wild," James explains. Receiving birds from the wild only happens very rarely, for instance, when a bird is injured, like the Zoo's new bald eagle, Brooks (read more on pg. 10).



James has a big board in his office where he tracks all birds coming in, going out, and future plans. That's when it starts to get complicated.

Some birds move to a new zoo as part of a breeding recommendation, while others just need a place to "perch."

For example, currently there is a surplus of male African penguins in AZA zoos. Since Louisville has a suitable exhibit space, the Zoo is holding a population of males. This keeps them safe and available for breeding, and also gives guests a chance to see and learn about them.

On the other hand (or wing), Louisville is one of the leaders in breeding Little Penguins. Recently, James and his team transported a fertile egg to the Cincinnati Zoo to help them infuse their existing population with new genetics. The chick hatched successfully and was then hand-reared and introduced to its flock with the Kentucky-appropriate name "Julep." Louisville's working on a similar exchange program with the Bronx Zoo.

Maintaining genetic diversity is a big factor in determining

which birds go where. Another conundrum is space.

"We have a great space for flamingos," James says. "It's quite large, so we were working with the SSP for flamingos to bring in additional birds, which would also introduce new genetics to Louisville's population."

That's when he heard the San Diego Zoo Safari Park was restructuring their collection and looking for a new home for an entire flock of 49 Chilean flamingos.

"Now we have more than 80 birds, and still have room to grow! Flamingos love to flock together. They like being in a big colony setting."

But birds don't just need space, they need the right space. Initially, Dalmatian pelicans were brought in to join the flamingos in their palatial accommodations. The birds got along great. A little too great.

"It turns out, pelicans really like flamingos," James laughs, "to the point

where they'd get so close, they were knocking eggs out of the flamingo nests. That's why we always have a backup plan, especially when we bring in a new species."

The pelicans have now settled comfortably in their new habitat — the Giant Tortoise exhibit in the Islands. "They have a nice water source, plenty of room, and lots of visibility for guests."

Enriching the guest experience is key to the Zoo's mission to better the bond between people and our planet. For the bird team, this means providing more opportunities to interact with the Zoo's many bird residents. Several are new or exhibiting new behaviors, like Fig Newton, the green-winged macaw, that's become companion for Saphira, our hyacinth macaw. You can see the two perching together on the Islands Forest Bird Trail.

"When you get up close to these amazing animals, you might see an interesting behavior related to that bird's natural history that you wouldn't normally notice," James says. "And then, maybe it inspires you to learn a little more about them."

And that can be the most intriguing code to crack.

"I don't know it all," James freely admits. "There are so many different species, and they've all adapted differently. When I see something new, I have to ask, is that a case for that species? Is there something about the environment or their diet? Is it that particular bird? I'm always learning, there's always another riddle to solve."

But if you're up for the challenge, he says: "That's what keeps birds interesting."

New Species at the Louisville Zoo in 2023!



Toco Toucan



Blue-crowned Motmot



Silver-beaked Tanagers



Spotted Whistling Ducks



Sunbitterns



Madagascar Teals



Green-winged Macaw



43RD ANNUAL GALA

ZOO FARI

LOUISVILLE ZOO

A Night of Red PANDAmonium

Friday, June 7, 2024
6 – 11 p.m.

COCKTAILS | DANCING | ANIMALS | AUCTIONS
LIVE MUSIC | BOURBON PULL

This event is for 21+ guests only.
louisvillezoo.org/zoofari

This event is brought to you by
friends of theZOO
LOUISVILLE
Raising Funds to Preserve a Legacy

CHEERS TO 55 MORE YEARS!

The spring season is a time for re-energizing, recharging and new beginnings. Flowers and tree leaves begin to emerge. Animals and insects start to awaken and stir in the newly warmed air. We each experience changes in our daily lives while celebrating the world and our own communities revitalized once again. We inevitably reflect on the past, dream about the future and make plans to enjoy the new year.

In this, the beginning of our 55th year, there are several exciting plans in development to energize and excite guests. The Zoo's team is spending time refreshing grounds in preparation for the busy spring and summer days ahead. Some enhancements will be easy to notice, while others may leave you wondering, "has that always been there?" One constant that remains unchanged since the Louisville community first made a commitment to and investment in your Zoo, has been our team's dedication and focus on the best care possible for the animals entrusted to us.

This year, we will be called to come together as a community once again, to make strides for wildlife. As you read earlier in this issue, we are currently planning arrangements to provide the best possible future for our elephants, Mikki and Punch. This will not be easy; however, together we will celebrate these longtime members of our Zoo family and the countless memories and learning moments they have provided to millions of guests over the years. Together, we will also celebrate the growth of our Animal Ambassador program with the renovation of the MetaZoo education building, creating a more enriching environment for the animals that live there. We will implement plans to

enhance animal habitats for species like our southern white rhinoceros and red panda. We will welcome new species to the Zoo, support animal conservation efforts, and make an impact from Louisville to the Great Plains and all the way around the world.



The Zoo is and has always been a place of fun, excitement, tranquility, learning and healing because of the perfect combination of humans, animals and nature. As we embark on our next year, we ask you, our devoted patrons and friends, to consider a gift to the Louisville Zoo Fund. Your donation will ensure 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 this page, you can support the continued success of the Zoo. **Philanthropic gifts from \$5 to \$5 million provide for the animals' wellbeing and overall growth and care of the Louisville Zoo — a treasure to all who visit.** Thank you for your consideration. We hope to see you soon at the Zoo!

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR ZOO

To learn about the other ways your support 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 polar bear license plate next time you renew your car tags
- Note the Louisville Zoo Foundation as a beneficiary on your estate, life insurance, IRA, Trust or other retirement plan



SCAN HERE
to support your Zoo

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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. 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.




Calling all gardening enthusiasts!

The Louisville Zoo is looking for individuals, families and groups with experienced green thumbs to join our volunteer gardening program – Adopt-a-Garden!

Started in 2010, this program offers the opportunity to adopt a garden site in the Louisville Zoo and care for it the entire growing season. Specific garden sites in the Zoo may be adopted by individuals, families or groups. The diverse garden plots are scattered throughout the Zoo, offering a range of sizes to accommodate your preference!

After volunteers sign up and select a garden plot, they will submit a plan for their plot. Volunteers are responsible for planting, weeding, watering, and maintaining your garden plot throughout the growing season, including putting it to bed in the autumn. Volunteers will purchase their own plants (which may be tax-deductible). With prior permission, volunteers may also bring plants from their own yards. Individual garden

signs proudly displaying the volunteer's name will mark each garden site.

The season runs mid-April through mid-November. Gardeners may enter the Zoo and work in their plots as early as 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. or later when the Zoo has extended hours.

All persons interested in adopting a garden will be required to attend an orientation session where the specific details of the program will be discussed.

We hope you will indulge your passion for gardening and help make the Louisville Zoo an even more beautiful resource for our community.

For additional information, or to adopt a garden, contact Diane Taylor, Coordinator of Volunteers by pr email mary.taylor@louisvilleky.gov.




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 Morgan McLaughlin at (502) 238-5386 or Morgan.Mclaughlin@louisvilleky.gov.

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A Month-Long Celebration of the Earth

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Sponsor Spotlight

For more than 15 years, LG&E and KU Foundation has celebrated Earth Month at the Louisville Zoo. This month-long Party for the Planet highlights the ways individuals can protect the environment, engage in conservation activities, and develop an appreciation for the natural world.

LG&E & KU Foundation's support of the Louisville Zoo extends beyond Earth Month, with additional support providing field trips for schools and community groups through Zoo Kids Inc; the Plant for the Planet initiative which provides funding for tree planting on Zoo grounds; and the Wild Lights lantern festival.

Investment from community partners like LG&E & KU Foundation ensures that the Louisville Zoo can provide dynamic programming, messages of conservation for the community and care for all the animals that call your Zoo home.

Thank you, LG&E & KU Foundation, for investing in your Zoo!

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WILD LIGHTS

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