

Wild Times

November | December 2021

DIGITAL

30

Years of ZOO LIGHTS

Auxiliary Reaches
A Milestone

MOUNTAIN LION
SISTERS

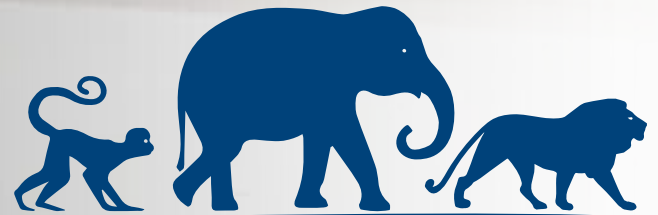
phoenix  zoo

ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

Run Wild!

See ZooLights!

Save Our BFFs!



Zoo move & groove 5K

**Sunday
January 16, 2022**

Registration | 4 p.m.

5K Run | 5:30 p.m.

**Get ready for the WILDEST
run in the Valley!**

Sign up as a team or as an individual and **HELP FUNDRAISE**. Your participation in our Zoo Move & Groove 5K not only supports black-footed ferret conservation, but also helps care for the thousands of animals who call the Zoo home.

Registration now open at phoenixzoo.org.

Enjoy an exclusive night of ZooLights with your registration



Art on the Wild Side

Now – January 31, 2022
During regular Zoo hours

Wildlights for Wildlife

November 7

Roars & Pours

November 18

ZooLights

November 24 – January 15

HOURS

Now – January 20, 2022
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Daily) | 8 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

ZooLights: November 24 – January 15, 2022
5:30 – 10:30 p.m. (Nightly)

Please note: Encounters, tours and experiences are not open until general public hours. Also, we do our best to have the majority of our animals in their habitats by opening time, but this cannot be guaranteed.

features



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Through Conservation Education

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get closer

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Ben York | Editor, Phoenix Zoo

Christine Boisen | Associate Editor, Phoenix Zoo

Corey Little | Graphic Designer, Phoenix Zoo

602.286.3800 | General Information

602.914.4333 | Call Center

602.914.4328 | Fax




phoenixzoo.org

455 N. Galvin Parkway | Phoenix, AZ 85008

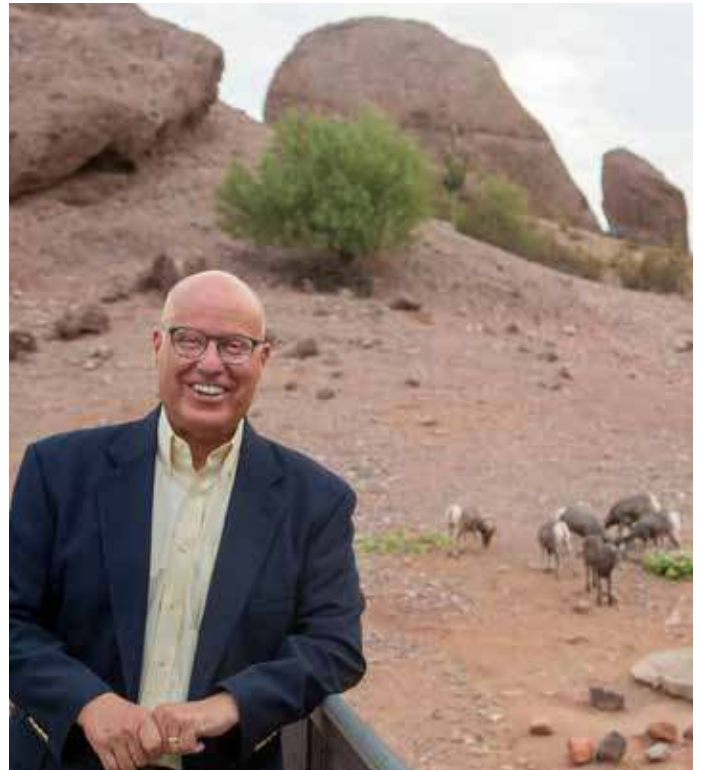


Dear Zoo Friends,



It's hard to believe, but this year marks the 30th anniversary of the Phoenix Zoo's holiday tradition of ZooLights. Thirty years is enough time that we're now seeing grandparents bringing their grandchildren to visit ZooLights like they did with their own young families. Family traditions, like ZooLights, are priceless and especially valuable in today's world. Last year, when COVID-19 had many people concerned about gathering for holiday traditions, ZooLights provided many people with a much-needed and safe way to enjoy the holidays with their families (especially the drive-thru option). We are proud of this incredible event and work hard each year to make ZooLights better than ever. This year we are featuring a new set of the very popular lanterns and we'll offer a Cruise ZooLights experience again for those who wish to view it from their cars. Because of the ongoing construction for our exciting new Africa Trail, the route will be a bit different this year; however, we will once again feature a Music-in-Motion display on the main lake. We have more lights this year and new lighted animal armatures, but we're also committed to making our displays more sustainable and have switched to 100% LED bulbs throughout ZooLights.

Speaking of anniversaries, I can't write to you all without acknowledging this is also the 60th anniversary of the Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary. Founded by Nancy Maytag Love to provide "a little fundraising and being helpful wherever we're needed," this dedicated group continues today as the Phoenix Zoo's strongest support organization. The pandemic has kept these very dedicated



volunteers away for nearly two years, but we're excited to welcome them back in their signature zebra-striped attire. Just before COVID-19 hit, the Auxiliary had begun a significant fundraiser selling pet paw prints for the Etched in Glass Donor Wall to be displayed at our front entrance, much like their very successful Handprints in Glass Donor Wall from a few years ago. Please consider participating in this beautiful fundraiser and help the Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary continue their long tradition of supporting the Zoo.

I hope to see you all at ZooLights!

Sincerely,

Norberto (Bert) J. Castro

President / CEO

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo

THREE DECADES OF ZOOLIGHTS

Reasons We *Love* the Valley's Most Cherished Holiday Tradition

What humbly began in 1992 with just a few hundred thousand twinkles has transformed into millions of lights, a three-story holiday tree, two Music-In-Motion shows and nearly 1,000 hand-crafted sculptures.

Now 30 years later, ZooLights at the Phoenix Zoo has become a holiday institution in the Valley of the Sun.

To celebrate, we narrowed down 30 of the most popular reasons ZooLights is such a special event to so many people.



1 *Big Blue* and the 35,000 LED lights that make it shine.



2 *Kettle corn.* Need we say more?



3 The holiday *music!*



4 Taking a photo in front of the three-story *Christmas tree.*



5 Seeing couples get *engaged*... it happens more than you may think!



6 Taking a quick break to watch an *Animal Presentation.*



7 Finding your favorite animal
in ZooLights form!



8 Seeing the lights glimmer and
sparkle off the concrete after a
desert rain.



9 Listening to holiday
revelers as you
make your way inside the Zoo



10 Snapping the perfect
selfie inside the
light tunnel.



11 Camel rides
at night!



13 Walking on the trail by
the zebras and seeing the
breathtaking, illuminated
trees.



14 Snik and China
snuggling, looking at lights
and people watching.



12 Sitting on the couches
at Lemur Lane and
Podd Ramada at dusk
as the beautiful Arizona
sun sets.



15 Anticipating the new
designs and sculptures
every season.



16 Coming together
with friends and family
that you may not have
seen in a while.



17 Photos with Santa
and Mrs. Claus!



18 Watching the music-in-motion
shows on the main lake.



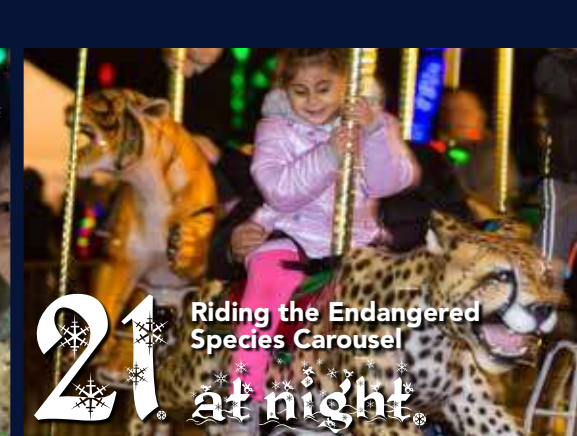
19

Seeing the amazing
**community
performers**
(carolers, choirs, bell ringers, etc.)
every year.



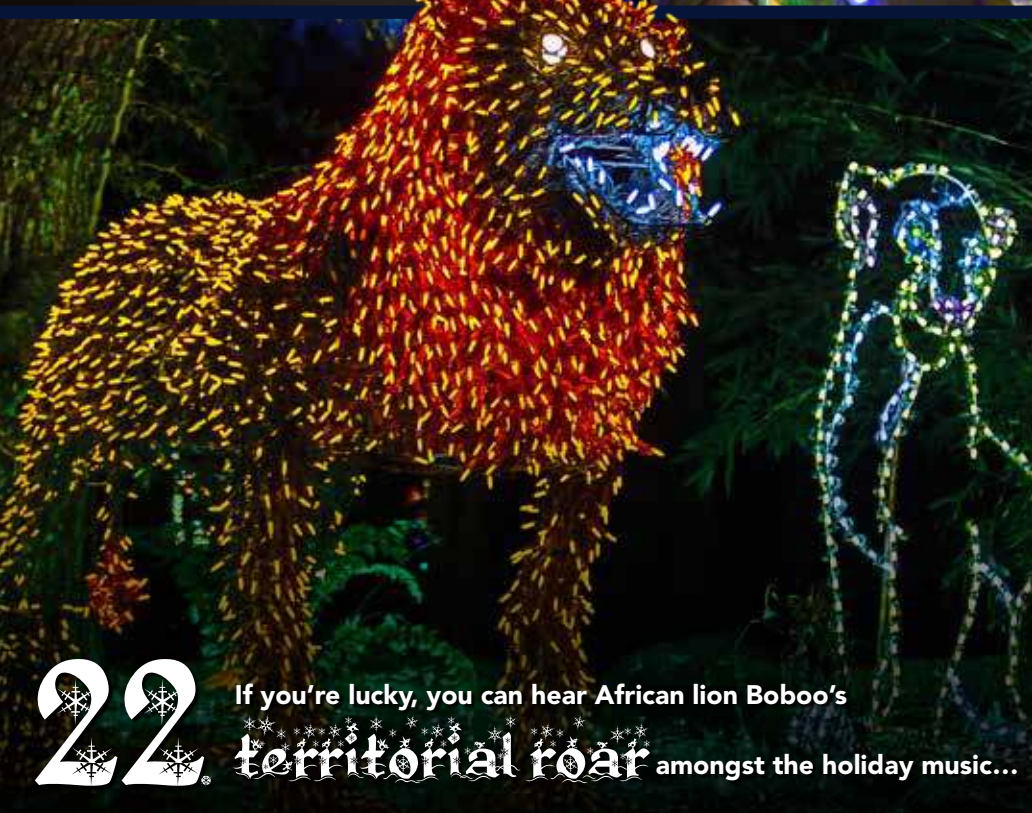
20

The smiles.
Every single one of 'em.



21

Riding the Endangered
Species Carousel
at night



22

If you're lucky, you can hear African lion Boboo's
territorial roar amongst the holiday music...



23

Bundling up for the
**cool
weather.**



24

There's something
special and unique to
Arizona about seeing
cacti with lights!



25

How it **lights up**
nighttime in the
Valley of the Sun.



26

The excitement as
you walk along the
bridge to get in.



27

Seeing the
three-story
tree lit for the first time
each year!



28

**Cruise
Zoolights!**



29

**Hot
chocolate!**



30

Exclusive
Member Preview Nights
(This year they are on
November 22 & 23!)

ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT



Bruce Taubert



Paul Gill



John Sherman

Presented by



RAYMOND JAMES



phoen/xzoo
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

THE GLORY OF NATURE'S FORM

Arizona Highways

NOW – January 31, 2022
Savanna Gallery (inside the Savanna Grill)

Are you wild about art?

Art on the Wild Side is proud to present The Glory of Nature's Form featuring some of the stunning photography of Arizona Highways magazine. Join us in celebrating the extraordinary beauty of Arizona's wildlife and wild places!

Most of the photographs featured in the Art on the Wild Side exhibit are available for purchase. For more information, contact Arizona Highways.

PHOENIX ZOO
zoolights
Sensory Friendly
Presented by



ONE NIGHT ONLY
JOIN US FOR A SENSORY FRIENDLY EVENING

Wednesday
November 10
5:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Quieter Music
Reduced Light Movement
Sensory Stations
Quiet Zones

Limited Tickets Available
ON SALE NOW!

VISIT  MESA
CITY LIMITLESS®

phoenixzoo.org

Inspiring Conservation Action through Conservation Education



As we wind down the busiest time of year for our native species conservation and science projects at the Zoo, we are celebrating a record number of endangered black-footed ferret kits born, multiple releases of Zoo-raised animals to the wild, funding support for exciting projects and research results that may spark a new batch of questions to explore. The Phoenix Zoo is a leader in regional and international wildlife conservation thanks to generous support from our members, donors and other guests, and to the hard work of all of our staff.

All of this work is driven by curiosity about and connection to nature. That fascination, that passion for caring for wildlife is central to our mission, and while it is essential to our successes at the Johnson Conservation Center, it's also the heart of our work in the Zoo's Education Department.

The World Zoo and Aquarium Association reminds us that "Zoos and aquariums have a duty to lead, support, and collaborate with education programmes that target changes in community behaviour toward better outcomes for conservation." Ultimately, the number of ferret kits born at the Zoo matters only if our community feels a connection to those ferrets and cares about how their actions impact the futures of those ferrets in the wild. Conservation science and conservation education go hand in hand, and our Zoo is lucky to have great staff and volunteers leading our efforts on both fronts.

Do you know the next Jane Goodall or Wangari Maathai? Many kids are fascinated by wildlife and have a natural desire to help; our education programs build and strengthen those instincts. Our

*My son had the time of his life this week.
He won't stop talking about all of the amazing things he saw
and did. He was passionate about animals and species
conservation before, now he is really motivated and impassioned!*

~ Camp Zoo parent

I'm sure you can tell that [my son] is enjoying his time with you and learning about orangutan behavior and critically needed conservation efforts. I know it's been an incredibly difficult year for zoos, and I hope that you continue offering fun, educational and engaging programs such as Orangutan Zoo Crew.... Keep up the good work. And, keep inspiring people to protect wildlife and their habitats while educating them that consumer choices have an impact.

~ Project Orangutan program parent

education programs are thoughtfully designed to allow kids to have fun as they grow up with the Zoo. From early experiences that focus on inspiring wonder to our more technical Conservation Science Night and Teen Career Conference events (join us in the new year!), Phoenix Zoo education programs can help translate curiosity into careers. Our programs cultivate empathy for all animals and meaningful connections to nature that inspire choices that support conservation outcomes no matter what paths program participants take later in life.

The Phoenix Zoo's Camp Zoo, Night Camp, Winter Camp, Project Orangutan and many more programs all provide a window into the world of working with animals and for animals. Our Education team helps discover and build on those sparks of interest and shows kids where their passions can take them, empowering them to take action to make a positive difference for the natural world close to home and around the world.

Every program has a conservation element in the form of an ask, in which Zoo educators let participants know what they can do to help protect animals and habitats in the wild, from choosing native plants for healthy pollinators to considering wildlife-friendly choices when grocery shopping, among many others.

Many zoo staff recall childhood experiences in zoo camps or teen volunteering that inspired their careers in conservation. We're proud to be part of these stories, as well as the many times we meet folks at the grocery store or post office who excitedly ask us about how the baby ferrets are doing or tell us about how a hearing a lion roar during Night Camp connected them with animals in a way that has stuck with them across the years. Our mission is to motivate people to care for the natural world, and these encounters show us that we're making a difference one story at a time.

Update from the Johnson Conservation Center:

In mid-October, 30 black-footed ferrets from the Phoenix Zoo flew in an Arizona Game and Fish Department plane to the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Black-footed Ferret Conservation Center in Carr, Colorado. Some will stay at the national center to contribute to the managed breeding program there. Others will spend a month in pre-conditioning enclosures as a "dress rehearsal" for release to the wild. Those that demonstrate that they are suitable for release (hunting prairie dogs, living in natural burrow systems) will be sent to one of 20+ release sites across the prairie grasslands of North America. Thirteen of the kits born at the

Phoenix Zoo this season are slated for release to the wild. Join us as we cheer them on! We're so grateful to our agency partners, staff and volunteers for making this season such a success.



YOUR YEAR END GIFT

Makes An Impact!

Charitable donations are an excellent way to support the education and conservation efforts of the Zoo. Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference. Make your year-end contribution today, by calling 602.914.4362, or visiting phoenixzoo.org/support/.

Gift a Donation

Have a "hard to shop for" person on your list? Consider a gift to honor them. Help someone create a lasting connection to wildlife and empower them to take positive action for animals.

Become a Wildlife Champion

Sponsor your favorite Zoo animal today and help support the more than 3,000 animals that call the Zoo home. Your symbolic adoption directly supports the Zoo's mission of providing experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world.

Give an Animal a Gift

Let your favorite animal know they are special and send them a present today. Many Zoo departments have a Wish List of items that they desire to better meet the needs of our animals and guests.

Non-Cash Contributions

Whether it's a gift of stock, a retirement fund or a donor advised fund, these options may enable you to make a larger gift than you ever thought possible, while also helping accomplish your financial and other goals.

Join the Wolfpack

Become a monthly donor! For as little as \$25 a month, you can provide toys for Luna, one of our Mexican gray wolves.

Become a Member

We LOVE our members! Becoming a Phoenix Zoo member opens a world of wonder all year long. Not only do you enjoy all the member benefits, you also give the Zoo a brighter future. We have membership packages to fit any lifestyle.

Take Your Support of the Zoo to New Heights

Upgrade your membership today! Guardian and Supporting level memberships support animal conservation, education and a secure financial future for the Zoo, while members receive exclusive access to the Zoo like you've never experienced before!

Support the Zoo While You Shop

Did you know you can give back to the Zoo while you shop at your favorite places? Sign up today for Amazon Smiles and the Fry's Community Rewards program, and continue to support the Zoo!

Tribute Gifts

The Phoenix Zoo offers many ways to celebrate your loved ones for any special occasion. These opportunities include personalized bricks, glass tiles, engraved bench plaques and more.

As one of the largest non-profit zoos in the country, your ongoing support is vital to the future of the Phoenix Zoo.





Picnics at the Zoo!

**You bring the guests...
we'll bring the wild.**

With unrivaled venues and activities to choose from, the Phoenix Zoo is the Valley's most unique picnic location.

- Scenic venues for groups of all sizes
- Animal encounters
- Variety of catering options
- Free parking

Book Today!
602.914.4301

CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES



What Can the Phoenix Zoo Do for You?

Though we are known for our animals, there is another species that flock to the Zoo - humans, or rather, consumers. The non-profit Phoenix Zoo welcomes nearly 1.4 million guests each year, making it one of the most visited attractions in the state of Arizona.

We can help position your brand through a menu of opportunities that offer exciting and unique avenues for your:

Brand awareness | **Audience engagement**

Product promotion | **Cause marketing**

Community involvement goals

Employee benefits

Offering a variety of integrated marketing opportunities including sponsorship of special events and guest experiences as well as onsite sampling, couponing and product display.

Corporate opportunities include:

Sponsorship | **Membership** | **Matching Gifts**

Ticket Discounts | **Corporate Events**

Zoom Animals

The Phoenix Zoo welcomes all forms of corporate support and recognizes that budgets as well as marketing and philanthropic objectives vary. As a result, we look forward to working with you on customizing an opportunity that meets your organization's needs.

Find out what the Phoenix Zoo can do for you. For more information, [click here](#).



Take your support

Help ensure a bright future for endangered species, educate audiences about the importance of conservation and play an essential role in the future of the Zoo.



of the Phoenix Zoo to the next level!

Supporting Memberships

- Starting at \$500
- Includes Base level benefits
- Special access to select Zoo venues, guest admissions, on-grounds donor recognition and more!*

Guardian Conservation Society

- Starting at \$1,500
- Includes Base and Supporting level benefits
- Special access to guest experiences, guest admissions, exclusive Society events, an annual behind-the-scenes tour and more!*

Upgrade your support today!

For more information contact Shannon Kinsman at 602.914.4346.

**Benefits vary depending on level of membership selected. Visit phoenixzoo.org/membership to learn more.*

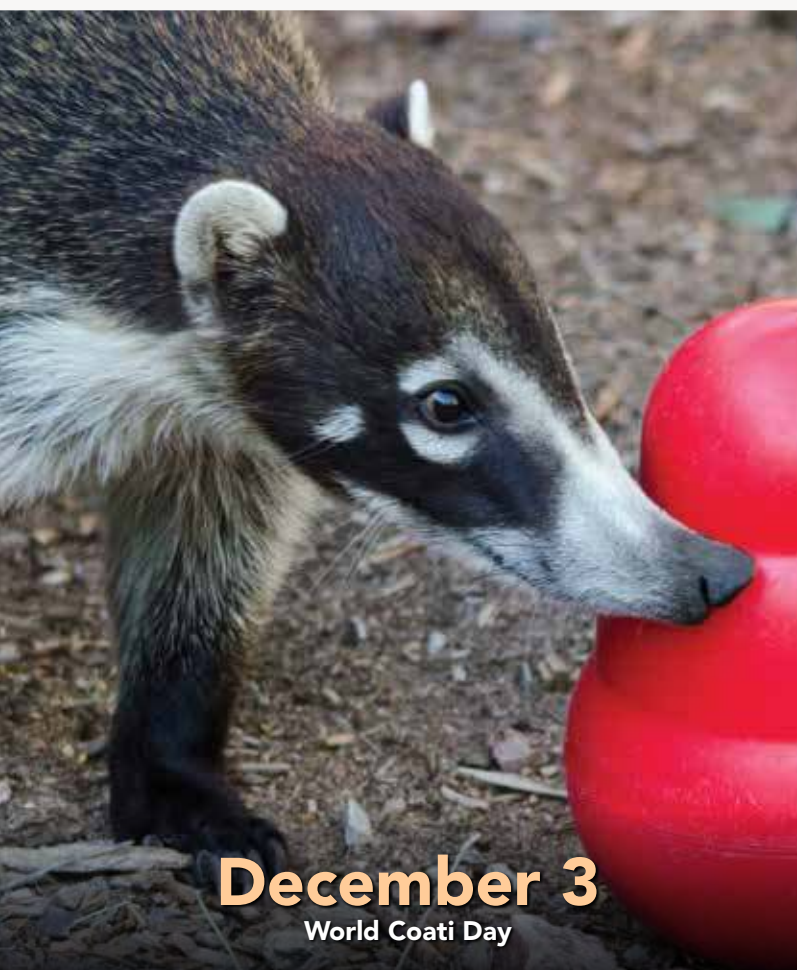


LET'S CELEBRATE!

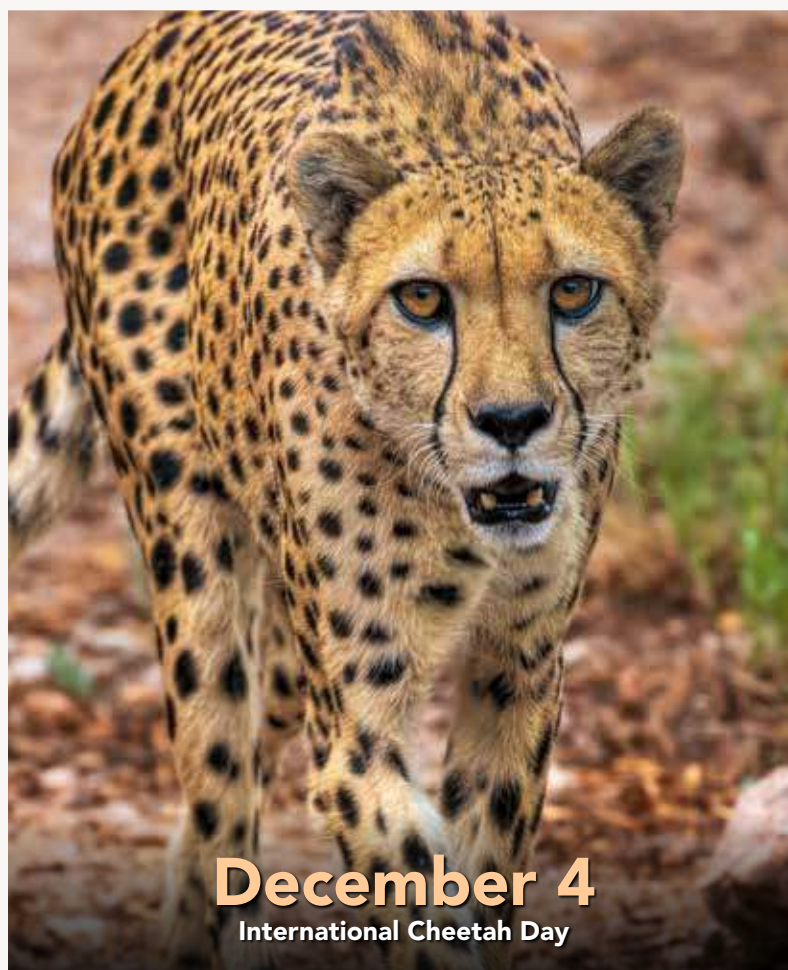
**Celebrate animals through November
and December with the Phoenix Zoo!**



phoenixzoo
ARIZONA CENTER *for* NATURE CONSERVATION



December 3
World Coati Day

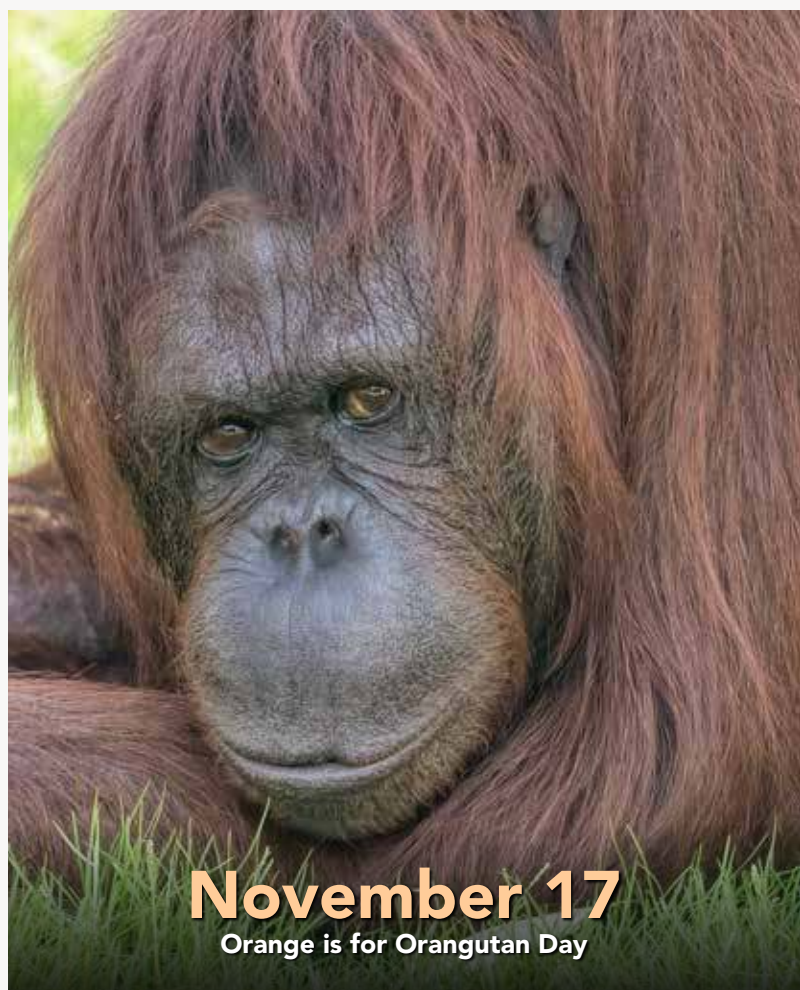


December 4
International Cheetah Day



November 7

International Day of Zoo & Aquarium Educators



November 17

Orange is for Orangutan Day



December 13

National Day of the Horse



December 14

Monkey Day

UNMATCHED DEDICATION



Celebrating *60 Years* of the Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary

You can see them throughout the Zoo at any given event, leading a field trip or even just greeting guests. Wearing their iconic zebra striped vests, volunteers with the Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary have been supporting the Zoo for 60 years! Their origin story is as unique and colorful as the Zoo itself.

In the summer of 1961, a young husband and wife were enjoying a tropical vacation and discussing the future of the city they called home. The husband lamented that the city was rapidly becoming one of the most prominent in the United States, and yet it lacked some of the key amenities that would establish it as a truly "cosmopolitan force." Knowing her husband enjoyed a good project, Nancy Maytag challenged her husband Robert Maytag (heir to the Maytag appliance fortune) to succeed where many had failed; establish a zoo for the city of Phoenix.

Maytag gathered his friends and associates and through influence and perseverance, he was able to put into motion a project that had long stalled as a city-funded entity. Thus, one of the most prominent privately funded zoos in North America was born. Recognizing that she and her friends could be a powerful asset in the development of the Zoo, Nancy Maytag asked her friends to assist her with "a little fundraising and being helpful wherever we're needed." That motto became the backbone of the Arizona Zoological Society Ladies Auxiliary in October 1961.

The first four members were Nancy Maytag, Mrs. James Allen, Mrs. Tim Rodgers and Ann Lee Harris

(a successful Broadway and television actress). Their first project was the sale of Christmas cards netting \$500. Next was a fashion show at the Camelback Inn that became an annual event well into the 1990s. Actress Ann Lee Harris used her influence to stage a world premiere for the movie, "Hatari" at the Kachina Theater on June 7, 1962. Many of the movers and shakers of the time attended the event and an appearance by the film's star, John Wayne, created even more buzz.

In March 1963, the Auxiliary was growing in strength and numbers (125 by its second year) with an enviable waiting list for membership. It mounted the first Aid to the Zoo National Horse Show at the Arizona Biltmore with 220 exhibitors. Over 1,000 people attended the opening day and the five-day project netted \$12,000. Over the years, the show became so prestigious that it moved to the Memorial Coliseum. Eventually, the Aid to Zoo Horse Show moved to the Goodyear Equestrian Center where it continued until 1992. After a glorious 29-year run, the Aid to Zoo Horse Show had earned over \$2 million dollars for the Auxiliary and the Zoo.

Though the Aid to Zoo Horse Show was financially more successful, the Auxiliary's Fall Fashion Show and Luncheon, first held in 1962, was a long-running staple of the fashion show season. It earned monies toward many projects until its final show in 1993. Other fundraisers spearheaded by the Auxiliary included Zoo-B-Que (an Arbor Day event), the Great Adventure Hunt (a timed scavenger hunt and dinner), Zoo Sounds (a concert and dinner) and the AZS Board of Directors.

Looking for a distinctive signature look to set Auxiliary members apart from guests at their ever-popular events, the membership adopted their distinctive zebra stripe uniform during the Aid to Zoo Horse Show in 1965. Though the uniform has taken many forms through the years (from wrap dresses to jumpers, skirts and the present-day vests), the zebra stripes have prevailed.

One of the Auxiliary's most visible fundraisers has been the unique Handprints in Glass and Etched in Glass tiles located at the entrance to the Zoo. These beautiful tribute pieces have helped the Auxiliary raise close to \$400,000 towards helping the Zoo build the new Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater and the Africa Trail expansion, as part of the Pride Campaign.

Auxiliary President, Kelley Durham, shares that "even before the Zoo opened, the Auxiliary was making it the group's mission to raise funds for the

Zoo and to promote education and conservation. Still going strong, this accomplished group of women do this by hard work, dedication and serving as ambassadors for the Zoo." Over the past 60 years the Auxiliary donated over \$3 million to the Zoo.

From its first days as a service organization, Auxiliary members have volunteered in many capacities. Whether it's at the Zoo itself, helping with the dirty work of renovating Ruby's House, donating gifts to needy families, hosting school groups of homeless children or fulfilling the Zoo's Wish List, Auxiliary members have proudly embodied Nancy Maytag's first description, "doing a little fundraising and being helpful wherever we're needed."

Thank You





ROARS & POURS

HAPPY HOUR SERIES

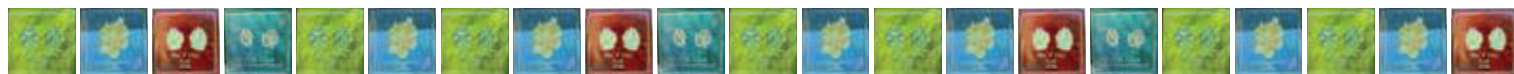
NOV 18 featuring



JAN 20

Guests can sip and stroll along select Zoo trails.

21 & Older Only | 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. | \$10 tickets at phoenixzoo.org



Commemorate the love you have for your pets

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to add your pet's pawprint and name to the Etched in Glass Donor wall.

Purchase yours today before they are gone! Tiles are \$500 each.

Proceeds will benefit The Pride Campaign's new African Lion and Spotted Hyena Habitat.



For more information, email phoenixzooprints@gmail.com or call 602.286.3800 x7342.



Save the Date



is Coming!

**December 27 – 30, 2021
8 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

Grades K – 8



phoenixzoo.org

Project Orangutan Zoo Crew

Ages 6 – 12 years

Member: \$75 | General: \$90

Experience a unique, project-based program that incorporates STEAM concepts with the Zoo as your classroom! Join our educators for 3 consecutive morning classes as we learn in-depth about orangutans and design a new enrichment item for them. Project Orangutan is fun, fascinating and promotes hands-on authentic problem-solving. Meets Arizona Academic Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

November 2, 3 and 4 | 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Storytime at the Zoo!

Ages 2 – 6 and a caregiver

Member: \$5 per child | General: \$5 per child (Zoo admission not included)

Join us at the Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater! Follow along on the big screen as we read some of our favorite books and meet ambassador animals!

November 6

"The Tortoise and the Jackrabbit" by Susan Lowell

November 8

"Can You Cuddle Like a Koala?" by John Butler

November 20 | December 13

"Time to Sleep" by Steve Jenkins & Robin Page

November 22

"Here is the Southwestern Desert" by Madeleine Dunphy

December 11

"Tricky Tortoise" by Mwenye Hadithi & Adrienne Kennaway



Winter Camp

Grades Kindergarten – 8

Member: \$275 | General: \$250

The best winter camp in the Valley is back! Get a glimpse into the hidden world of zoos with Winter Camp Zoo at the Phoenix Zoo. Campers will get a behind-the-scenes look at the animals that call the Zoo home and meet the amazing people that care for them...all with a wintry twist! Groups will be broken up by grade level: Kindergarten, 1-2, 3-4, and 5-8.

December 27 – 30 | 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.*

*Aftercare available until 6 p.m.



Birding 101

Ages 14 years and up

Member: \$18 | General: \$20 (Zoo admission not included)

Join our resident bird expert for this class designed for beginner birders. Common backyard birds and how to look at birds will be introduced in the classroom and then we will practice our birding in the Zoo.

November 13

December 4

January 22

Bird Walks

Ages 14 years and up

Member: \$8 | General: \$10 (Zoo admission not included)

Enjoy a nice leisurely walk around the Zoo's ponds looking for native and migratory birds with Zoo staff. All levels welcome.

November 18

December 16

January 13, 22

Photography Walkabouts

Adults

Member: \$18 | General: \$18 (Zoo admission not included)

Tips, tricks, and technique guidance abound in this casual walkabout program led by one of the Zoo's expert volunteer photographers.

November 3, 6, 13, 17, 21

December 3, 11, 15, 19, 27

Custom Group Night Camps

Ages 7 years and up

Group Night Camps are perfect for birthdays, family reunions, youth groups and more. The camp consists of guided trail hikes, animal discoveries and educational activities. Visit our website for more details.

ZooToYou – Live On Location

\$260 per Outreach Specialist first hour

\$150 for each additional Outreach Specialist or hour

Did you know the Zoo brings animals to birthday parties, day care centers, churches, corporate and family events, senior care centers and many more in addition to schools? Zoo Outreach Specialists provide exciting and educational programs for children and adults. Put a wild twist on your next event!

ZooToYou – Distance Learning

\$125 per presentation

With Virtual Programs, Phoenix Zoo educators can broadcast into your home or classroom with live animals, engaging activities and inquiry-based programs – the same quality programming you expect from the Phoenix Zoo, just virtual. All you need is a computer, and an internet connection, although we recommend a projector for larger groups. Our interactive presentations are designed to meet Arizona State Academic standards and may include a mix of live discussions and demonstrations, pre-recorded videos, interactive quizzes and questions, as well as live animal presentations.

Celebrate the Season with Something **wild**

Stop by the Phoenix Zoo Gift Shop for fun winter gear and unique holiday gifts for everyone on your list!

The gift shop is open daily and during ZooLights.

1. **Handmade Felt Ornaments Using Recycled Wool | \$16**
2. **Unique Animal Brush Ornaments | \$16**
3. **Hand Carved Wood Tiger Ornament | \$18**
4. **Handcrafted Wool Knit Caps | \$30**
Choose from Giraffe, Lion, Sloth and Tiger



The Desert Marketplace Gift Shop, operated by Event Network, is committed to sustainability in honor of the Phoenix Zoo's mission. Items in the store are made with reusable materials, environmentally-friendly ink is used for signs and product packaging is made of 90% post-consumer recycled materials.



Delivering water and power®

SHINE BRIGHT. SAVE BIG.

This holiday season, light up the night for less with help from SRP. We offer discounts and rebates on many home upgrades — like lighting, cooling and insulation — that can help you save energy all year long. Turn on the savings at [savewithsrp.com](https://www.srp.com/savewithsrp).

WILD GIFT IDEA - PHOENIX ZOO MEMBERSHIP

This holiday season give your loved ones the gift of a Phoenix Zoo membership and let them unwrap an entire year of amazing animal adventures and incredible perks!

Plus, when you purchase a Zoo gift membership before December 10, 2021,* your gift recipient will receive two **FREE** tickets to ZooLights+ presented by SRP®

With 12 months of free daytime admission to more than 3,000 animals and 125 acres of adventure, discounts, special events, and much more — a Phoenix Zoo membership is the gift that keeps on giving all year long.

Purchasing a gift membership is fast and easy!
Just Click [HERE](#)

Or visit phoenixzoo.org/membership
and enter promo code **WTW21** to claim this
special limited-time offer!

*If you want your membership gift to arrive before December 24, you must purchase by December 10, 2021.

*Limited time offer includes two free ZooLights tickets. Additional tickets require separate purchase. Offer expires December 31, 2021. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Not valid on previously purchased memberships.

November Special

BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwich
with a Medium Fountain
Drink



Member Wednesday Lunch Special

Enjoy a **\$5 Member Meal**
every first Wednesday of each month featuring
a signature meal and a beverage.*

*Must show current membership card and photo
ID at the time of purchase.*

December Special

Choice of Pizza,
(Cheese, Pepperoni or Daily Special)
with a Medium Fountain Drink



ENCOUNTERS & EXPERIENCES

Enhance your day at the Phoenix Zoo with a variety of fun experiences to make your visit even more memorable!

Rydables

Adorable stuffed animal on the outside, super safe mobility-style electric cart on the inside. Rydables are a flexible and enjoyable way to experience the Zoo!

Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater

Zoocademy Awards

Presented By 

Animal Presentations

Monday – Sunday | 10:30 a.m.

Additional shows

Friday – Sunday | 12:30 p.m.

Endangered Species Carousel

Take a spin on the Endangered Species Carousel! Each animal is unique and beautifully handcrafted for an authentic, distinctive look.

Stingray Bay

Our 15,000-gallon interactive pool offers you the chance to come hand to fin with our cownose stingrays and even feed them fish and shrimp.

Camel Rides

Go for a ride on one of the most amazing animals in the world and even get your picture taken!



WATER PLAY AREAS & PLAYGROUNDS

Water Play Areas closed through February 28, 2022.

Enchanted Forest

Presented By  Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Discovery Farm

Presented By 

Yakulla Caverns

Leapin' Lagoon Splash Pad

ZOO TOURS

Safari Cruiser

Presented By  VALLEY TOYOTA DEALERS

Hop aboard for a fun, narrated, 25-minute tour meandering past a large portion of the Zoo's animals, encounters and experiences.

Discovery Tours

A Discovery Tour is a 75-minute guided tour through the Zoo in one of our eco-shuttles. You'll be able to hop on and off the cart for closer viewing and for photo opportunities throughout the tour.

Backstage Adventures

If you're looking for a truly unique experience, join us for a Backstage Adventure and get an insider's glimpse of some of our animal habitats such as flamingo, elephant and Stingray Bay.

Premium Adventures

Looking for the ultimate Zoo tour? Try a Premium Adventure – a fully customized experience for you and your special guests.



*Discovery Tours, Backstage Adventures and Premium Adventures are limited to same party groups only and must be booked in advance by calling our Reservations Department at 602.914.4333.

Phoenix Zoo members receive a discount!



By **Katerina Frye**
Interpretive Content Intern

Mountain lion sisters Sierra and Mystic were rescued from South Dakota in 2007, after hunters shot and killed their mother. They were two of seven cubs orphaned that season. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks department determined that the cubs were unable to survive on their own, so they were sent to new homes. One factor the department takes into account is the cubs' ability to feed themselves. Most mountain lions stay with their mother for two years, moving from a diet of milk to small game around three to six months of age. Though Sierra and Mystic were only a few months old at the time of their capture, they already had a confirmed kill. Despite this surprising accomplishment, they were deemed too small and inexperienced to remain alone in the wild.

So, the sisters arrived at the Phoenix Zoo just as the 2008 Superbowl was kicking off at the nearby Phoenix Stadium. In honor of this event, the public voted to name the two "Ely" and "Brady" after the famed footballers. But the keepers prefer Sierra and Mystic, respectively. Those names capture the grace with which the sisters bound onto the rock ledges in their exhibit, and how their kohl-lined eyes sparkle with interest when guests appear.

Keeper Danielle describes Sierra as "striking" with her more angular face and "outgoing" personality. She is the first to approach keepers and doesn't hesitate to bat her sister away from toys and food she considers hers.

Though the two sisters will lay side and by side and occasionally groom one another, they – like all siblings – will occasionally get into a bit of a tiff. "Whatever we give them, we have to give them two," Danielle said, "otherwise they'll fight over it."

Right now, they particularly enjoy paper bags, especially grain bags from the hoofstock pens. "They absolutely love the bags. They shred them to pieces." Keepers place the bags in different locations within the sisters' exhibit, encouraging the cats to stalk their "prey."

When they aren't playing with their toys, the sisters like to doze on the rock ledge at the back of their habitat. "They take cat-napping very seriously," Danielle said. In the wild, mountain lions are most active at dawn and dusk, when their main source of prey – deer – are out and about. A recent study found that mountain lion beds are usually "tucked underneath the low-lying boughs of a tree, or against the rugged face of an inaccessible cliff" to protect the cats from bears and wolves.

Though Sierra and Mystic don't have to worry about those threats, they are wary of humans. Danielle noted there has been some debate in the scientific community about whether mountain lions should be classified as "big cats" like African lions and

Sumatran tigers, or if they are just big “small cats,” like sand cats and cheetahs. “They seem like small cats in that they are wary, stubborn, and not as food motivated.”

If the sisters don’t want to perform their training for the day – like standing on their hind legs so keepers can inspect their front paws – they will simply ignore all offerings of food and engage in a “voluntary fast.” According to Danielle, “they also get uneasy if more than one zookeeper is present, because that means something’s up.”

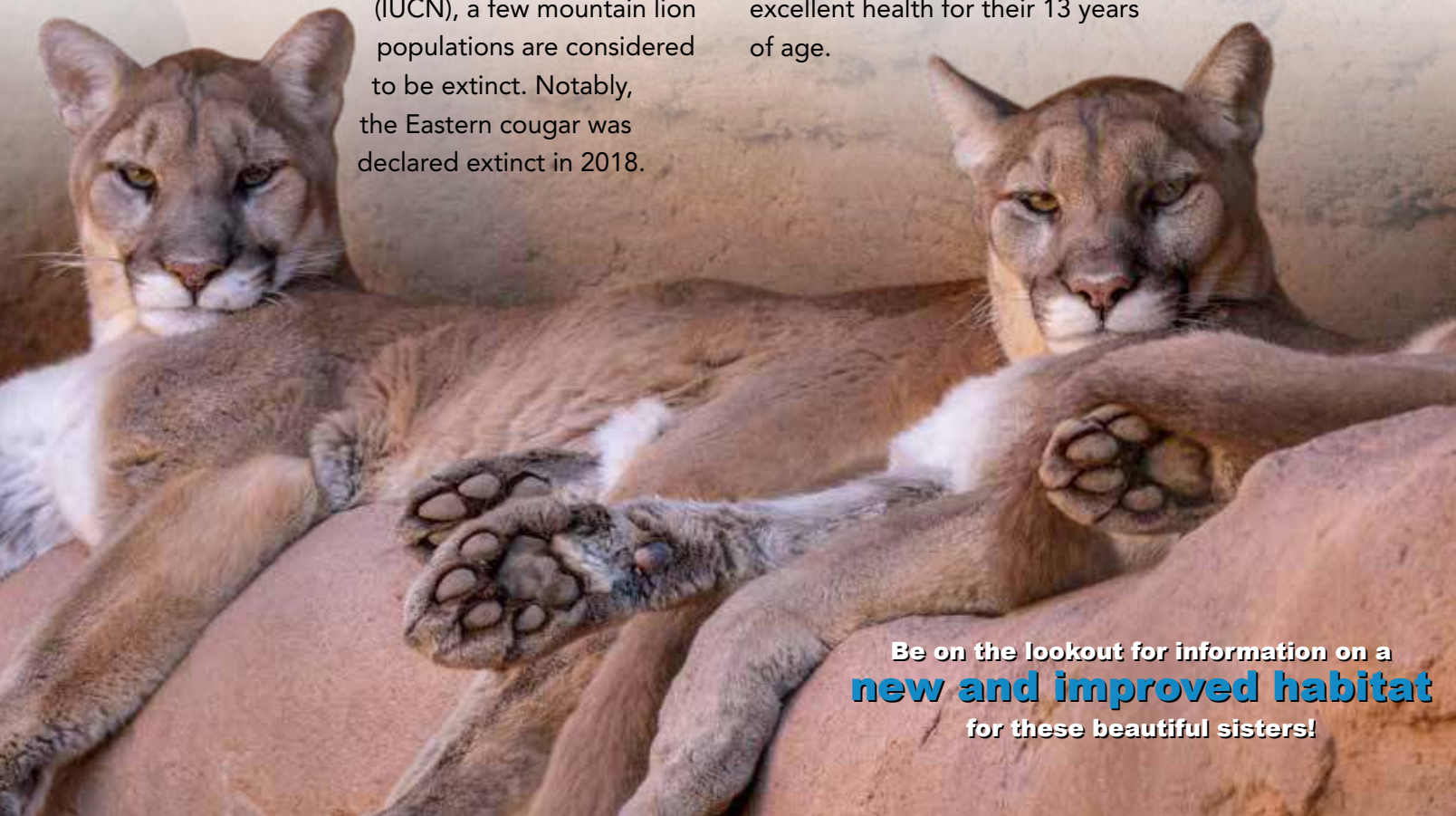
Perhaps this is part of the mountain lion’s solitary nature. Excluding mothers with cubs, most mountain lions live alone, though their territories may overlap. Mountain lions have the largest range of any wild land animal in the Americas, spanning from the Yukon Territory in Canada to the Southern Andes. As a result, mountain lions live in a variety of habitats, from mountainous deserts to forests to open areas with little vegetation.

Despite being classified as “Least Concern” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), a few mountain lion populations are considered to be extinct. Notably, the Eastern cougar was declared extinct in 2018.

This term refers to mountain lions (also known as cougars, panthers, or pumas) that dwelt east of the Mississippi River, excluding the Florida mountain lion population. Sources estimate that Eastern cougars were wiped out and pushed out by the end of the 1930s due to hunting and human settlement.

According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, approximately 120-230 adult mountain lions remain in Florida. Any other sightings in the Eastern US are often found to be individuals that wandered from their western ranges. Officials still debate the efficacy and ethics of reintroducing mountain lions into the Eastern United States or breeding them with the existing Florida panther population. In 1995, Floridian officials sanctioned the breeding of Texas mountain lions with the dwindling population of Florida panthers, “preventing its demise” and “reinvigorating” the population to the numbers we see today.

Nevertheless, the Zoo is not involved in any mountain lion breeding efforts, and neither Sierra nor Mystic are likely to become mothers in this lifetime. But they will have each other and are in excellent health for their 13 years of age.



Be on the lookout for information on a
new and improved habitat
for these beautiful sisters!

Share your animal drawings with us.
Parents – please write your child's name legibly
along with their age.

Send to: WT – Wild Child | Attn: Linda Hardwick
455 N. Galvin Pkwy.
Phoenix, AZ 85008



Curtis, Age 4



Cayden, Age 8



Ellie Mae, Age 7



Lindsey, Age 9



Melissa, Age 11

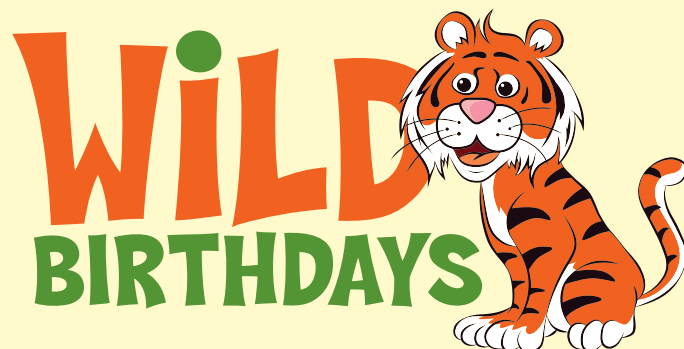


Macie, Age 6



Ally, Age 10

Calling All Party Animals!



Let the Phoenix Zoo host your child's next birthday party and enjoy a fun, stress-free day celebrating. It's sure to be a wildly good time!



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