

SPRING 2024

WILD TIMES

A Phoenix Zoo Digital Publication

SPRING

brings new life to
the Phoenix Zoo



There's a Bear in the Air!

Zoo Scientists Share Talents,
Gain New Perspectives Through
Staff Conservation Grants Program

Celebración!

Día del Niño

Presented by **SNP**

Sunday, April 28 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Included with Zoo admission

Live Music | Ballet Folklórico

Amazing Activities | Animal Discoveries

and FREE Carousel courtesy of



phoenixzoo.org



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		Free admission for the first 300 teachers!	What do you get out of YOUR membership?

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation advances the stewardship and conservation of animals and their habitats while providing experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world.



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HOURS

- January 21 — May 31, 2024
- 8 a.m. Member Early Entry
- 9 a.m. — 5 p.m. Daily
- June 1 — August 31, 2024
- 6 a.m. Member Early Entry
- 7 a.m. — 1 p.m. Daily
- September 1 — September 30, 2024
- Monday – Thursday
- 7 a.m. Member Early Entry
- 8 a.m. — 1 p.m. Daily
- Friday – Sunday
- 8 a.m. Member Early Entry
- 9 a.m. — 4 p.m. Daily

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.



ON THE COVER

Photo credit: Joaquin Hidalgo

Phoenix Zoo welcomes five new goats to Harmony Farm in March baby-boom.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Zoo Friends,

This is the Spring 2024 edition of Wild Times and, just like every spring, we're enjoying the cooler weather while we can. The animals are active this time of year and it's the perfect time to come visit Predator Passage. This new 6-acre expansion of the African Trail allowed us to form a new pride of lions. Over the last few months they've explored and gotten very comfortable in their new habitat. Our hyenas utilize every inch of their new space and our Rüppell's griffon vultures are so comfortable that we had a chick hatch on exhibit! You can practically see this chick growing under the watchful eyes of the parents. We're still waiting for permits from the Federal Government to bring in a mob of meerkats, but hopefully soon you can watch them scurrying around their tunnels through underground viewing windows.

On the Arizona Trail, work is progressing quickly on Big Cats of Arizona. Hopefully later this year our jaguars and mountain lions will move to this exciting new space, complete with a catwalk that will allow the jaguars to walk over your heads on the walkway.

When construction for Big Cats began, we had to move a small pond in the Arizona Trail's Desert Groves that you may not have noticed before. This pond has been home to a small population of endangered desert pupfish, a tiny species of fish native to Arizona. Over the years, fish from this pond have been collected and released to the wild in Arizona to help repopulate native waterways. This has been an important and thriving habitat for these fish, so we just completed a new, much larger pond in another location on the Arizona Trail in order to continue this important contribution to the conservation of this species.

We have a new hoofstock barn under construction for the African Savanna exhibit. The holding areas in this new barn will allow us to add additional species like greater kudu and impala to the Savanna, so keep watch for them. New species to the Zoo have to be transported in cooler weather, so it may be fall before you see some of these exciting new species.

We just held our first Zoobilation, a new spring fundraiser that allowed guests to travel through the Zoo, progressive dinner style, journeying to distant lands through food and music. Sponsored by Valley Toyota Dealers, the inaugural event was a great success and one lucky guest went home the winner of our raffle with a brand new Toyota Four Runner, again courtesy of Valley Toyota Dealers. A limited number of tickets were sold and the raffle alone raised \$136,900 for the Phoenix Zoo. The entire event raised over \$350,000 and we're excited to watch it grow over the years. Be sure to put this event on your calendar for next spring. You won't want to miss it.

Our busy spring break season is winding down, so now is a perfect time to come out and see what's new at the Zoo! Hope to see you out there.

Norberto J. (Bert) Castro

President / CEO

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo



SPRING

brings new life to
the Phoenix Zoo



Spring has sprung at the Phoenix Zoo and we have baby fever! Over the course of a week in March, Harmony Farm welcomed five kids from two different mother goats; Hazel and Moth. Arriving the first week of March with no fuss, Momma Hazel gave birth to three beautiful and healthy babies, who quickly got comfortable in their new home.



On March 12 around 3 p.m., six-year-old Nigerian dwarf, Moth went into labor to deliver her two kids. The process lasted over three hours and into the night, due to complications brought on by the size of her big babies. The second kid wasn't delivered until after 7 p.m. with the help of Dr. Loren Lassiter in addition to the farm/equine team. Moth was struggling with the delivery by herself, so our amazing team jumped right in to assist in the birth of baby number two. After the stressful night both kids were delivered healthy and have been a fun and exciting addition to the Farm. Mothers Moth and Hazel are doing great as well and you can visit them all in the Red Barn on the Children's Trail!

If you are interested in learning more about Hazel, Moth and their kids, or our other farm animals, be sure to visit the Zoo on April 13 for Farm Day! All activities are included in general admission or with your membership.





23-year-old parents, Moja and Sifari laid and successfully hatched a Rüppell's griffon vulture chick! These parents have had several chicks together, including Darth Maul, who still lives here at the Zoo and can be seen in the same vulture habitat on Predator Passage. The new chick is the first Rüppell's griffon vulture born at the Zoo since 2020 and is the first chick to hatch in the new vulture habitat.

Dalmatian pelicans, 14-year-old Seven and eight-year-old Anastasia, had chicks hatch on February 15 and 17. These are Anastasia's first chicks! The first chick is being raised by Seven and Anastasia. The second chick is being raised by foster parents. This increased the ability for both eggs to hatch. These chicks will live on the raft in the middle of main lake until they are about 80 days old. Due to the threat of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

(HPAI), it's possible these chicks will be the only two hatched this year in the United States, as the Phoenix Zoo has been fortunate to not have a case of HPAI on Zoo grounds this year.

Greater Malayan Argus pheasants, six-year-old Ozzy and 12-year-old Sharon, had a chick hatch on February 16. The chick is visible most of the day, except for when mom decides the chick needs to be warmed up! Next time you're at the Zoo, make sure to stop by Tropical Flights to catch a glimpse of these amazing birds. Ozzy, the father, is hard to miss with his giant tail! Fun fact, male Greater Malayan Argus pheasants' tails can grow to over four feet.

The fun of spring can also be found in two events at the Phoenix Zoo. In late April we will be celebrating both Earth Day and Día del Niño back-to-back. On Saturday, April 27, join the fight against plastic pollution at Earth Day and enjoy a sheep shearing demonstration, seed planting education and more!

If Earth Day leaves you wanting more, you can come back on Sunday and celebrate Día del Niño. Enjoy Latin dance performances, mariachis, animal shows and countless other activities across the Zoo in a wonderful celebration of children, animals and Hispanic culture.

APRIL

Art on the Wild Side

Wild Side Gallery

Vanishing Circles

Now — June 2, 2024

From the Collection of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Savanna Gallery

The Bigger Picture

Now — May 12, 2024

Focusing our lenses on what bonds us together rather than what sets us apart.



Earth Day

April 27

It's a Party for the Planet!™

Our Earth Day celebration strives to foster ideas and provide people with the tools to implement "doing your part" into their everyday lives!

Día del Niño

April 28

¡Celebración!

Día del Niño is back featuring a variety of family-friendly entertainment and activities all with a festive Latin flair!



MAY

Roars & Pours

May 2

Guests 21 and older can sip and stroll select Zoo trails while enjoying craft brews, wine and food. Plus, animal encounters, yard games, live music, entertainment and more!

Art on the Wild Side

Savanna Gallery

Nature in Focus

May 16 — September 29, 2024

Kids in Focus



MAY

Teacher Appreciation Day!

May 11

Celebrating the Valley's amazing educator's. Sponsored by Desert Financial Credit Union.

JULY

Bidders for Critters

June 19

The sizzling summer online auction.

SEPTEMBER

Art on the Wild Side

Wild Side Gallery

Common Ground

September 5, 2024 — January 26, 2025

Diverse Visions Inspire a Common Passion

OCTOBER

Roars & Pours

October 3

Art on the Wild Side

Savanna Gallery

Water is Life

October 3, 2024 — February 23, 2025

Kids in Focus

Spooky Safari

October 23, 24 & 25

Calling all ghouls and goblins! Join us for the Zoo's spook-tacular Halloween trick-or-treat event.



It's a Party for the Planet!™

Presented by **SRP**

PLANET

VS

PLASTICS

Saturday, April 27 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Included with Zoo admission

Planet earth is fighting plastic pollution!

Join us for games, activities and to learn how to join in the fight!

For more details, [click here.](#)



CAMP!

Summer Camp Zoo

Registration is now open!

- Kindergarten – 6 grade
- 8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. for grades 1 – 6
- 8 – 11:30 a.m. for kindergarten
- Weeklong sessions offered throughout June and July
- Scholarships available on a first come, first served basis

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Night Camps are for Everyone!

Come spend an evening or stay overnight at the Phoenix Zoo, walking the trails after dark and meeting animals up close! Whether you're looking for a fun family adventure, overnight field trip, or camp for your scout group, we offer something for everyone. See details [here](#) or call 602.914.4333 for availability.



TEENS AND FAMILIES

Teen Volunteering

Applications for our teen volunteering programs are now open! Whether you're looking to develop leadership skills on our Trailblazers Youth Advisory Council or get some experience engaging guests about conservation as a ZooTeen, we have a program for you! We are accepting applications for both programs through May 31.

Photography Classes

Have you ever wondered how the Phoenix Zoo photographers get all those cool, detailed photos? Now you can learn our secrets by taking part in Animals in Focus: Photography Classes. Join long-time volunteer, Dave Seibert and other professional guest photographers, for a 90-minute walk around the Phoenix Zoo where you will learn the basics of photography: composition, lighting and capturing emotion. On our walk,

we will cover how to photograph through fences, windows and foliage in addition to learning more about the Phoenix Zoo and the natural world.

Learn more and register [here!](#)

- Duration: 1.5 hours (9:30 – 11 a.m.)
- Cost: \$30 (Zoo admission not included)
- When: Classes available November – April
- Maximum Group Size: 6

CLASSROOM PROGRAMS & TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FREE Teacher Professional Development

You read that right. We offer \$100 stipends for teachers attending our Professional Development Workshops! Get familiar with our Curriculum for the Classroom and how to guide the students through conservation projects and Socratic discussions. Summer and Fall dates and registration links can be found [here](#).

July 11: Project Orangutan

Learn about conservation science and the process of saving species!
Grades 3 – 6

July 18: Project Arizona Wildlife

Learn about conservation science and the process of saving species!
Grades 6 – 12

July 25: BioConnect

Use the design process to create an invention inspired by nature!
Grades 6 – 8

Curriculum for the Classroom

Our dedicated team of educators is excited to help you integrate the magic of the animal kingdom into your classroom with learner-led project-based curriculum units! We offer three topics for students in grades 3 – 12. Each topic includes an in-depth Teacher Guide with:

- Arizona State Standards Alignment
- Teacher Guide with detailed content outlines, lesson plans, and assessment
- Student Research Notebook PDF
- Support materials for each lesson including pre-recorded videos, recommended research sources and activity worksheets
- A 30-minute live, virtual Q & A with a Zoo Educator

Outreach Live on Location

Let the Zoo come to you! Our fun, interactive outreach programs include an educator and ambassador animals that come right to your classroom or site. These programs are a great way to add impact and bring learning to life. Our standards-based topics can be customized for learners from PreK to High School and we have topics for adults as well!

[LEARN MORE](#)





THERE'S A BEAR IN THE AIR

The words ‘high energy’ and ‘child’ tend to go hand in hand, but it’s truly amplified when that youth is an Andean bear!

Auggie, the Phoenix Zoo’s male Andean bear, recently turned 4 years old and he is always raring to go. Arboreal by nature, Auggie loves to climb trees and explore his surroundings from above. Yet his innate strength and youthful energy can be destructive on the vegetation within his habitat. Fortunately for Auggie, the Phoenix Zoo is a proud Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited member, meaning we do our utmost to encourage natural behavior.

Danielle Wong, Behavioral Enrichment and Animal Welfare Coordinator, helped facilitate a new, heavy-duty concrete tree structure in Auggie’s habitat. We checked in to find out a little more about Auggie’s ‘bear-y’ cool play structure.

What are the benefits of having a play structure like this for Auggie?

Encouraging our animals to express their species-appropriate behaviors — behaviors they would naturally do in the wild is vital for their wellbeing. Climbing for Andean bears is a huge part of their natural history and is an important behavior for them to continue to do in our care.

Who came up with the idea for Auggie’s play structure?

We love to make things look as natural as possible in our animals’ environments. Keeper staff worked collaboratively with Operations staff on design, build, and install.

Is this an original design?

This is an original design from our Operations staff which includes several talented individuals with unique skillsets. We used their past experiences, skills, and creativity to

find the best design for this climbing structure, while maintaining structural integrity.

Describe the design?

The original design, a concrete tree with a sitting platform, is close to what is now in the habitat, but the support of the structure is what really changed. The final design now incorporates a single metal support that has “branches” built in to hold up the platform. It’s incredibly sturdy and very heavy but also looks like a tree to capitalize on the natural behavior.

How long did install take?

It took the Operations team two days to install. Auggie, like all young bears, is very inquisitive and loves to check the integrity of everything in his environment. The Operation staff were able to concrete the main support of the climbing structure the first day and then install the platform portion a day later to ensure that it was a strong enough to hold Auggie. In true Auggie fashion, the first thing he did when given access to his climbing structure was to try to push it over (and it didn’t budge!).

What are next steps for more structures?

Our full plans include having more than one platform, all of different heights to provide different places for climbing, rest, and keepers to attach behavioral enrichment items for Auggie to use. Operations staff are currently working on building the other portions of the climbing structure and we hope to install another portion soon!

You can visit Auggie and his new play structure in the Forest of Uco on the Tropics Trail.



Thank you to Primrose Schools for your support of our Andean bear habitat!





ZOO SCIENTISTS SHARE TALENTS & GAIN NEW PERSPECTIVES THROUGH STAFF CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM

Each year, the Phoenix Zoo invites full-time staff to submit proposals that allow them to apply their professional skills to projects supporting wildlife conservation in the field. In 2023, five Zoo scientists participated in the staff grants program. Here are some highlights from their experiences.



"Through a staff conservation grant I was able to travel to South Africa to work with Care For Wild, a rhino rescue, rehabilitation, and rewilding program. Part of the hands-on work, bottle feeding, habitat cleaning and other necessary husbandry duties fits well with my job here at the Phoenix Zoo working with our white rhinos. Another part of the program is observing the rhinos that have been released back into a diverse and natural ecosystem where they can thrive at being rhinos.... [This opportunity] allows us to not only work hands on in a conservation effort, but to bring back stories to share with our guests. Stories that may inspire our next young conservationists."

- Bill Freeman
Senior Keeper, Hoofstock



I've always enjoyed traveling but haven't necessarily been able to incorporate myself into the conservation side of things as I wouldn't even know where to start, never mind a language barrier. Thanks to my grant and the connections I made with Fundación ProCAT, I got a real feeling for what it takes to do conservation work outside of the US.

I feel like I brought back a greater understanding of the true impact of jaguars within their native ecosystems and the role they play in the local culture as well. I like to pass this information on to our guests to help get them excited about not just our jags (who are awesome by the way) but jags as a species. It is through this involvement that we create a larger network to help this amazing species and subsequently all the other species that happen to benefit from this research as well.

- Emily Merola
Keeper II, Carnivores

My experience traveling to Malaysia was something I will forever be grateful to have participated in. For me, connecting with the locals who interact with the animals in the wild that I care for at the Zoo gave unique insight on how conservation has to work for not only the animals but people as well. It also gave me a great deal of hope to see changes and advancements being made for the betterment of native species and the environment as a whole, and the passion that was shown by everyone I had the pleasure of interacting with.

- Madison Temple
Keeper I, Elephants



Conservation Science Night 2024

Welcomes Guests for an Up-close View of Our Mission

As a Signature Event of the annual Arizona SciTech Festival, the Phoenix Zoo invited guests to a free, family-focused night showcasing our native species recovery and field conservation research projects. Staff from the Zoo's Conservation and Science, Field Conservation Research and Learning & Engagement departments teamed up with volunteers to host activity stations that gave guests a chance to imagine a career in conservation. This year's event reached just over 200 guests.

Tara Harris, director of Conservation and Science, noted that "Conservation Science Night provides us the opportunity to talk to all age groups about our work to recover native species behind the scenes at the Zoo and in the field. With creative and fun activities, from black-footed ferret spotlighting to springsnail counting, our guests get to better understand the variety of work that we and our partners do as conservation scientists, as well as the important roles our native species play in the state they call home." Senior Conservation Technician Mariah Michalek added, "One of my favorite moments is seeing the astonished looks on the faces of the kids (and their parents!) when they see how small the springsnails are that we work with. They may be only the size of the tip of a pen, but they do some heavy lifting as nutrient recyclers and they also serve as indicators of the health of their environment. So far, I have never met a Zoo guest that has previously heard of these miniature mollusks."

We're proud to be part of the annual Arizona SciTech Festival and look forward to welcoming guests to our next Conservation Science Night in February 2025.



Thanks to our staff conservation grants, I was able to travel to Malaysia to follow research on the Bornean elephant. Being on the ground really opened my eyes to everything that makes conservation so important. Not just the actual research but the human aspect as well. Watching the non-profit interact with the locals and teach them why the work is important allows for a more informed generation and creates a community that wants to protect the animals around them instead of conflict over space.

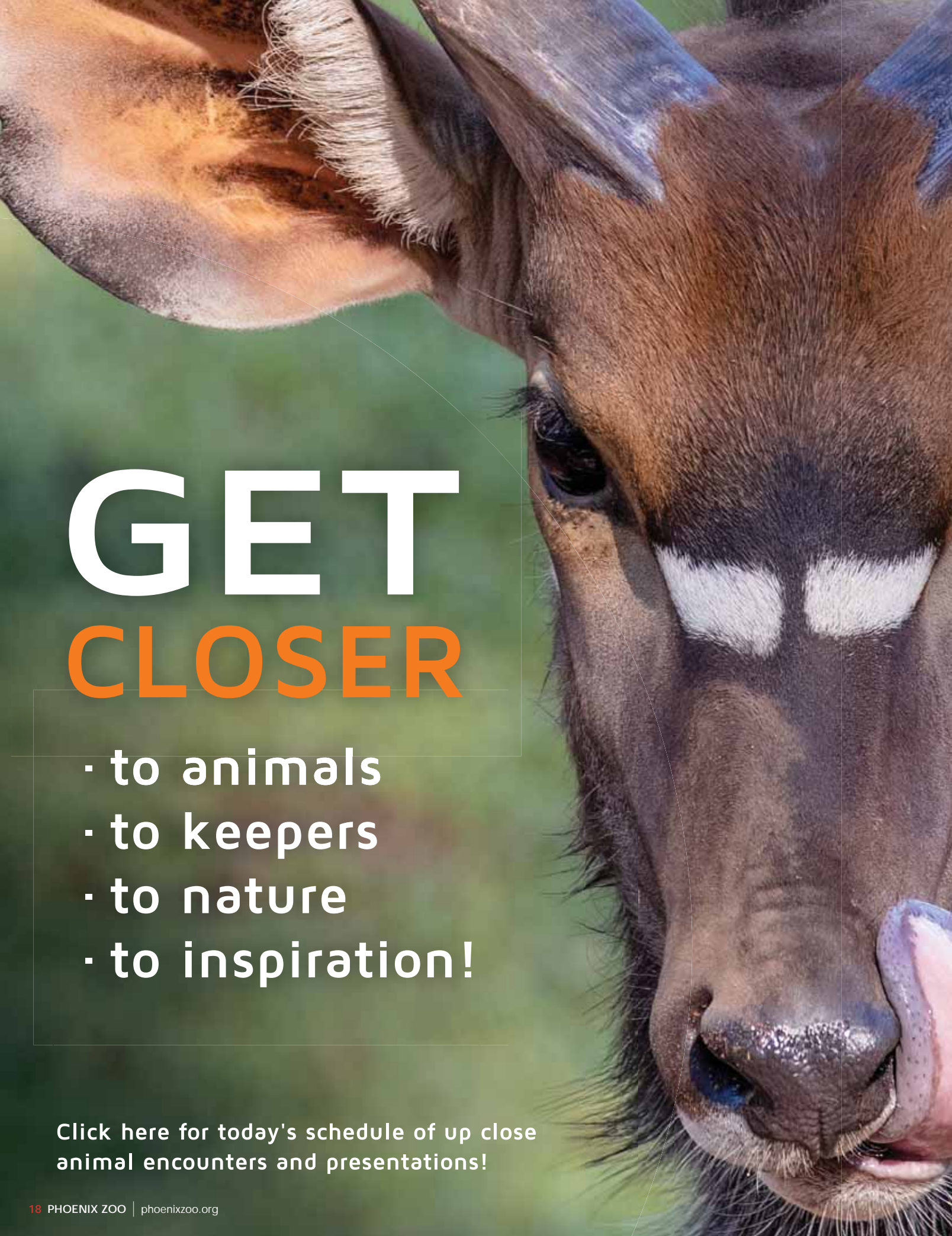
It gave me an extra push to do that here at our Zoo. To be able to let our guests know why these animals are so important and the things we can try to do to protect their environment, even in a small way.

- Leslie Lindholm
Keeper II, Elephants

The opportunity granted by the Staff Conservation Grant Program to join the Field Conservation Research Department in Costa Rica facilitated my growth as a professional and as an individual. This trip was my first time out of the country, so that in itself taught me a lot but also gave me valuable insight on the challenges people face with wildlife, especially in a place like the rainforest. It helped me better understand why human-wildlife conflicts arise and the ways to help minimize them. All in all, this opportunity helped me advance as a conservation scientist and I get to utilize the skills gained to enhance my role here at the Zoo.

- Miquela Ciccarelli
Conservation Technician I





Make a donation in celebration of your pet today!

GET CLOSER

- to animals
- to keepers
- to nature
- to inspiration!

Click here for today's schedule of up close animal encounters and presentations!



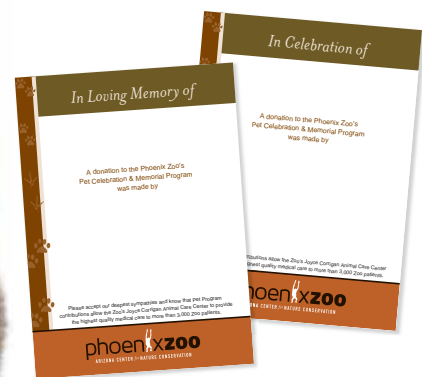
There are many reasons to celebrate a pet in your life...

A NEW PET!

A BIRTHDAY PAWTY!

JUST BECAUSE!

HONORING A FURRY OR SCALY BEST FRIEND



**Funds raised for the Phoenix Zoo's Pet Celebration & Memorial Program (Pet Program) goes to the Joyce Corrigan Memorial Care Center and purchasing the latest veterinary technology for the Zoo.*



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

WATER PLAY AREAS & PLAYGROUNDS

Discovery Farm

Presented By  ARIZONA MILK PRODUCERS

Kids love this 'farm-themed' play area located at Harmony Farm on the Children's Trail. This area is also home to cows, sheep, horses and the not-to-be missed, Red Barn Goat Petting Yard.

Yakulla Caverns

Splash, jump and play at the "coolest" splash pad in the Valley! Make your way through the cavern as you explore stalactites and stalagmites! Perfect for children 5 and over.

ZOO TOURS

Safari Cruiser Rides

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.

Enchanted Forest

Presented By Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Take an adventurous trek through the shady Virginia G. Piper Enchanted Forest! Little explorers can take the bridge over a trickling river and through the trees to visit the Enchanted Forest's own tree house.

Leapin' Lagoon Splash Pad

Let your little ones enjoy the water while you rest. Or for the daring adult, join in the fun and get soaked! Perfect for babies and toddlers.

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.

ENCOUNTERS & EXPERIENCES

Camel Rides

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

Monkey Village

Presented By  PoGo Pass

As the only walk-through squirrel monkey exhibit in the United States, this is a must-see on your visit to the Zoo!

Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater Animal Presentations

Presented By  SRP

Daily at 10:30 a.m. with a second show Friday – Sunday at Noon

Venomous Rattlesnake Presentation Friday – Sunday only at 9 a.m. Temperatures Permitting

Art on the Wild Side

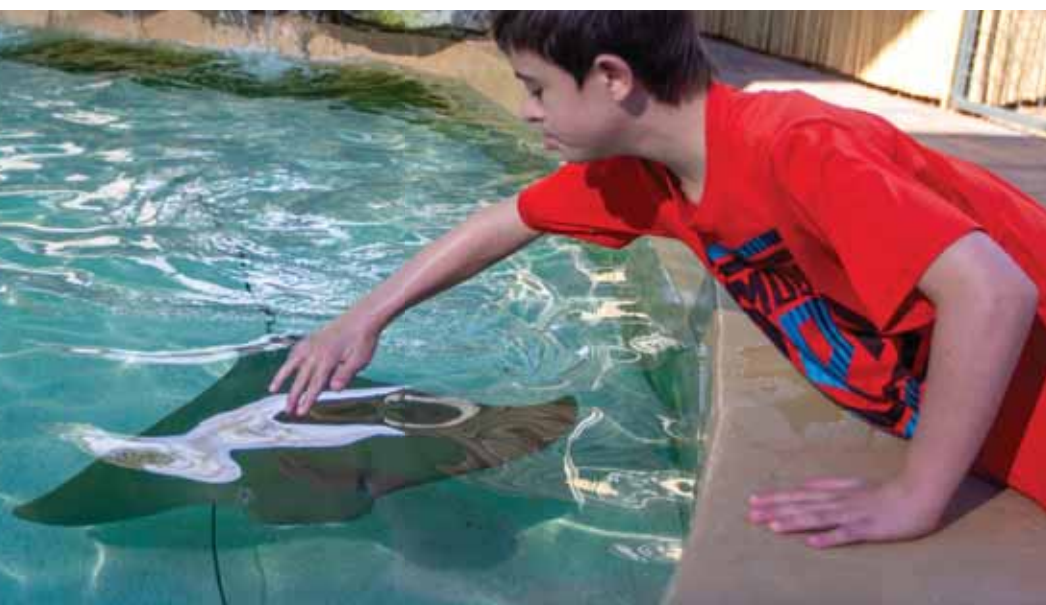
Inspiring artwork adorns the walls of the Zoo's galleries; Wild Side & Savanna Grill.

ScooterPals

Join the ScooterPals Crew for a scooterrific fun and flexible way to experience the Phoenix Zoo.

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.



Don't miss your chance to take **ONE LAST SPIN** on the **Endangered Species Carousel!**

Presented By  AMERICA FIRST CREDIT UNION

The Phoenix Zoo is excited to announce that we are constructing a new carousel that will open this summer and usher in a new era of memories and enjoyment.

We know there are many great memories attached to the current animals and we want to give you the opportunity to take one last spin on the Endangered Species Carousel before it closes in early May!

Phoenix Zoo members receive a discount!

*Fees apply | Must show your current Phoenix Zoo membership card and photo ID at each venue to receive discount at time of purchase. Hours of encounters and activities are subject to change or close without notice. Weather may affect some activities.

Animal Tails

Can you identify the Phoenix Zoo animals from their tail alone?



Coyote | Komodo Dragon | Squirrel Monkey | Masai Giraffe



Livia | age 9



Cullen | age 13

Dear ZOO Donor,

Thank You for inviting us to zoo camp. It was super DUPER fun. I loved The snake. I Also love The turtle. I loved seeing The Kangaroo Rat They brought to show us we got to hike at night. It was so dark but fun. we ALSO All got to sleep on the floor like we were camping. I had The best time ever.

My favorite Part was The activities about The desert we go to do. I'll never forget zoo camp.

sincerely
Emily Peña

Wild Child artwork is randomly selected. Share your animal drawings with us. Parents – please write your child's name legibly along with their age.

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

TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY AT THE PHOENIX ZOO

Sponsored by **desert FINANCIAL**
CREDIT UNION

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION for the first 300 teachers!
Additional teachers receive 50% OFF admission.
MUST HAVE VALID SCHOOL I.D.

- Learn how the Phoenix Zoo partners with teachers!
- Experience amazing animal discoveries!
- Register to win a Backstage Adventure!

Click here for more information



phoenixzoo
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

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.

Funds raised will benefit the non-profit Phoenix Zoo

PHOENIX ZOO AUXILIARY

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

PHOENIX ZOO INTRODUCES

ZOOBILATION

JOURNEY TO DISTANT LANDS!

Presented by **VALLEY TOYOTA DEALERS**

Thank you for your support of the Zoo's inaugural fundraising event, Zoobilation, presented by Valley Toyota Dealers.

The globe-trotting event raised over \$350,000 for the non-profit Phoenix Zoo. In total 1,369 raffle entries were sold for the Win a Wild Ride Raffle, raising \$136,900 for the opportunity to win a brand-new 2024 Toyota 4Runner. Congrats to winner Mike Abel with winning raffle #2021!"



Maximize your impact with a matching gift!

Did you know you can make your support for the Phoenix Zoo go even further? Unlock the power of matching gifts! Many employers offer matching gift programs, which means they'll match your charitable donation, effectively doubling the impact of your contribution.

How does a matching gift work?

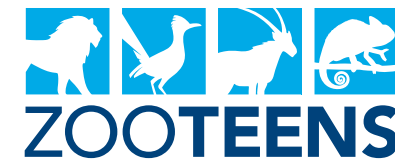


Other ways to maximize your support



Millions of individuals work for companies with matching gift programs and billions of dollars in matching gift funds go unclaimed each year.

For more information about matching gifts, please contact Ashley Lunsford at alunsford@phoenixzoo.org.



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH MAY 31

ZooTeens are high school students who volunteer at the Phoenix Zoo on the weekends. This is an exciting program where teens can enhance their understanding of animals, conservation and the environment while developing valuable professional and life skills! ZooTeen volunteers will focus on engaging and educating guests in a variety of fun and interactive ways and will gain access to special monthly opportunities to broaden their knowledge and exposure to careers in the fields of animal and conservation sciences.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Enrolled in grades 9–12 during the 2024–2025 school year
- Passion for wildlife and conservation
- Desire to learn and try new things
- Willingness to represent the Phoenix Zoo in a friendly and professional manner

REQUIREMENTS:

- Attend an orientation and required trainings
- Commit to a full year of service
- Complete one, 6-hour volunteer shift per month

To apply or find more information about becoming a ZooTeen, [click here](#) or email zoo teens@phoenixzoo.org

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Support the Phoenix Zoo and symbolically adopt your favorite animal!

Packages include

- Certificate of adoption
- 12" plush*
- Animal fact sheet
- Frameable photo
- Phoenix Zoo greeting card

* Plush included with packages of \$75+

Endangered Species Day Specials

- Amur leopard
- Arabian oryx
- Bornean orangutan
- Sumatran Tiger



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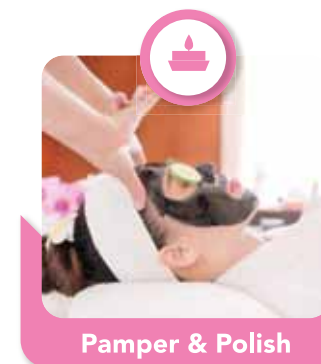
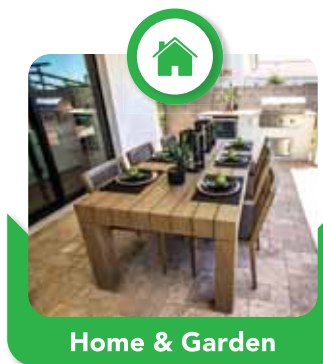
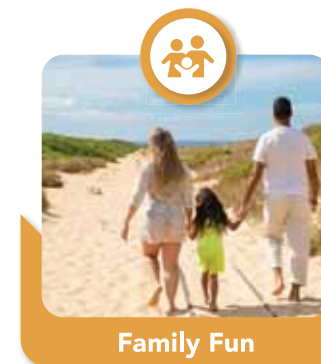
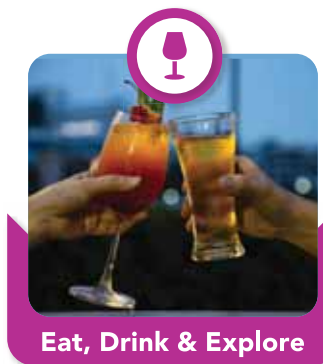
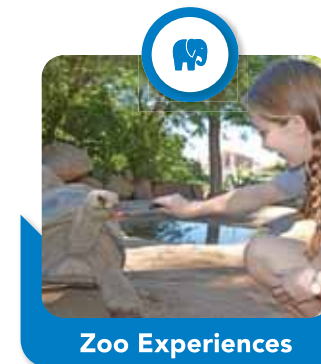


SAVE THE DATE!

Bidders for Critters

The sizzling summer online auction in support of the non-profit Phoenix Zoo

Don't miss your chance to win... there's something for everyone!



AND SO MUCH MORE!

Bidding begins on July 18 at 9 a.m.

ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT



WILD SIDE GALLERY

VANISHING CIRCLES;

from the Collection of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

February 3 – June 2, 2024



Cathy Sheeter

SAVANNA GALLERY



Focusing our lenses on what bonds us together rather than what sets up apart.

Now – May 12, 2024



Thank you to our sponsors



COMING SOON

Common Ground:

Diverse Visions Inspire a Common Passion

September 5, 2024 – January 26, 2025

Kids in Focus Presents:

Nature in Focus

May 16 – September 29, 2024

Water is Life

October 3, 2024 – February 23, 2025



Take your support of the Phoenix Zoo TO THE NEXT LEVEL!

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.

Supporting Memberships

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

Guardian Conservation Society

- Starting at \$1,500
- Unlimited access to the Zoo for you and up to 11 additional guests
- One behind-the-scenes tour per year with animals like Chutti the greater one-horned rhino*
- Exclusive invite to Heart of the Zoo lecture series events and ZooLights Donor Preview Night

Upgrade your support today!

For more information contact Chris Gutierrez at 602.914.4362.

**Behind-the-scenes tours are subject to availability and must be reserved through the Donor Relations office.*

Join the Antler Society -



THE ANTLER
SOCIETY

LEAVE A LEGACY

If you've ever wanted to express your appreciation for the Phoenix Zoo, a gift in your estate plan could be the perfect option for you. Whether you make a gift today or after your lifetime, you will help to provide experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world. With a little planning today, your impact can be felt for generations to come.

The "Antler" name draws on an analogy between our thoughtful donors who have remembered the Phoenix Zoo in their will or estate plan and the deer that leave behind its antlers for the nourishment of other living creatures. Membership in this society is extended to those who share with us their intention to leave a legacy with the Phoenix Zoo.

Would you like more information?

Click here to download this free comprehensive Estate Planning Kit. It will help you protect loved ones, organize everything in one place, and save on taxes.



Have a question?

Please contact Donor Relations to speak with a team member in confidence and with no obligation.

Email: teamdonorrelations@phoenixzoo.org



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HAPPY HOUR SERIES

MAY 2 | OCT 3 | NOV 7

Guests can sip and stroll along select Zoo trails.
21 & Older Only | 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
\$10 tickets at phoenixzoo.org



GUNSMOKE'S "MISS KITTY:"

Cheetah-Breeding Pioneer!



1

By independent guest writer, Cee-Cee Deslaurier-Tate

In later years, the actress turned to wildlife conservation, dedicating significant time and effort toward saving the endangered species of the world. With numerous trips to the eastern regions of Africa under her belt, Ms. Blake focused on preserving African wildlife, with species' populations dwindling at an alarming rate at the hands of poachers. One particular species facing extinction caught the actress's attention: the cheetah. Alongside her then-husband Frank Gilbert, the two were among the first private owners to successfully breed cheetahs in human care, sharing their knowledge within the zoological world. The Gilberts became renowned for saving these big cats from extinction. According to Becky Burgoyne, author of Ms. Blake's biography: "...The Gilberts' research and knowledge forever left a legacy for the survival of the endangered cheetah."

Amanda Blake stated, regarding her cheetah-breeding success, "The cheetahs are a scientific project and we are attempting to do this in order to see that the species survives."



2

Donating both knowledge and cubs to zoos around the country, the Gilberts graciously assisted the Phoenix Zoo in launching their own cheetah-breeding program. The Zoo

Amanda Blake was best known to the world as "Miss Kitty" for nearly two decades on the Western television series, Gunsmoke. The larger-than-life actress set the stage for future generations of women as television's first independent female business owner, leaving behind a lasting legacy for millions of fans. However, unknown to many of her followers, Ms. Blake left a far greater legacy as a passionate wildlife activist and conservationist.

Amanda's animal advocacy pursuits intrigued me, inspiring me as a Girl Scout Ambassador to pursue my Gold Award, the highest national leadership award a Girl Scout may earn. I am honored to have spent the past two years working closely with several notable organizations, the Phoenix Zoo Auxiliary among them, to share the little-told story

of Ms. Blake's work as a powerful voice on behalf of animal wellbeing and conservation. Through countless hours of research and cross-country interviews with close friends of the Gunsmoke actress, as well as experts in the fields of animal conservation and welfare, I am creating a documentary to honor Ms. Blake's love and passion for all the world's "furried, feathered and fuzzied" (Amanda Blake, as quoted in Becky Burgoyne's Perfectly Amanda: Gunsmoke's "Miss Kitty," To Dodge and Beyond).

An avid animal activist for decades, Ms. Blake served in leadership positions within state and national animal welfare-related organizations. Ms. Blake also co-founded the Arizona Animal Welfare League, the state's oldest and largest no-kill shelter.

received cubs from the Gilberts in 1978. Long-time ladies' Auxiliary member and former President Jan Patten remarked, "We wanted to have cheetahs, and through [Amanda's] husband and herself...they were able to help us. They brought us cubs; I think there [were] three of them...they were wonderful. It was such a treat to have them here. And I know she [Amanda] was very proud...to have some in the Zoo here."

In addition to her conservation role, Ms. Blake served for many years as a ladies' Auxiliary

member, capitalizing upon her world-wide celebrity as "Miss Kitty" to lend a hand in numerous fundraising efforts.

I am honored to have interviewed key staff members and volunteers at the Phoenix Zoo, and to further spread awareness of Ms. Blake's achievements within the animal world, I have raised funds to install a paving brick in the Zoo's Predator Passage area, memorializing the Gilberts' work as cheetah-breeding pioneers. The Auxiliary, in honor of Amanda's membership within their

group, has graciously added her name to the Auxiliary Memorial Ramada. When visiting the Zoo, head to Predator Passage and the Auxiliary Ramada to view the physical tributes dedicated in memory of Ms. Blake!

1

Amanda Blake plaque at Zoo Auxiliary Ramada.

2

1974, Courtesy of Jane Price, Perfectly Amanda

3

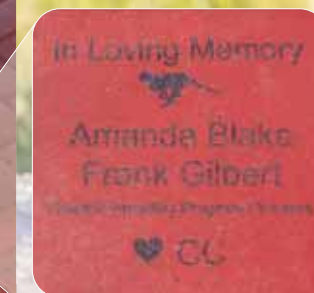
Circa. 1976, Courtesy of Jane Price, Perfectly Amanda

4

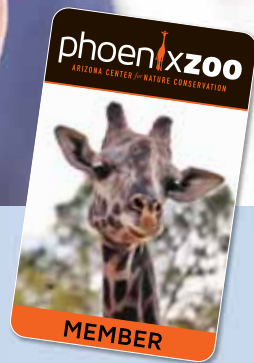
Cee-Cee's Girl Scout Gold Award project, a brick for Amanda Blake.



4



Members Experience MORE



A Phoenix Zoo membership offers several benefits and perks. In addition to free general admission, discounted guest tickets and invites to exclusive member events, there is so much to experience!

Member Hour

An hour prior to opening, members receive exclusive entry to the Phoenix Zoo. During this time, members can take advantage of a more quiet, tranquil setting when walking our 2.5 miles of trails. Early mornings are ideal for those looking for a safe and peaceful setting when enjoying all that nature has

to offer. This window of time gives the perfect opportunity to see how our Keepers prepare each animal habitat prior to our animal ambassadors making their daily appearances. Members are often lucky enough to hear Boboo, our male lion, let everyone know he has entered his habitat with an extra loud vocalization.

Reciprocal Zoo List

In partnership with over 150 AZA accredited institutions, Phoenix Zoo Members receive free or discounted admission to select zoos, aquariums, and nature centers all over the country. This benefit is not only handy when traveling out of state, but here in Arizona

as well! While supporting your local Zoo, you can experience SEA LIFE Arizona Aquarium and Reid Park Zoo in Tucson. See the full list [here](#).

Discounted Zoo Experiences

With each visit to the Zoo, members receive exclusive in park discounts. These money saving deals are offered at multiple experiences including Camel rides, the Endangered Special Carousel, Stingray Bay, and at the Safari Cruiser. Members also receive discounted wheelchair and scooter rentals, plus a 10% discount on gift shop purchases.



JOIN TODAY!

Save \$10 on a Phoenix Zoo Membership with promo code **WTMAR**

** Offer not valid on previously purchased membership. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Offer expires at 11:59 p.m. MST on August 31, 2024.*

We'll See
You at the
ZOO!

