



# Creating the Next Generation of **CONSERVATION STEWARDS**

2016 EDUCATION YEAR IN REVIEW



The purpose of education at the zoo is to inspire and cultivate an informed community of conservation stewards.



# THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Woodland Park Zoo would like to thank the generous donors in 2016 that helped make our education programs possible:

Many thanks go to the following partners who contributed to the strength and quality of our education programs in 2016:

Alaska Airlines  
 Rick and Nancy Alvord  
 The Boeing Company  
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 Horizons Foundation  
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 Jane Nelson  
 The Ocean Project  
 Pam Okano and Dick  
 Birnbaum  
 Pacific Science Center  
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 Mercer Slough  
 Miami University's  
 Project Dragonfly

Museum of Flight  
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 Ocean and Climate  
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Seward Park Audubon  
 Shadow Lake Nature Preserve  
 Sound Community Bank  
 South East Seattle  
 Education Coalition  
 University of Washington  
 College of the Environment  
 University of Washington  
 Museology Graduate  
 Program  
 Washington Department  
 of Fish and Wildlife  
 Washington Informal  
 Science Education  
 (WISE) Consortium  
 Washington Solar  
 Washington Ski Patrol  
 Western Wildlife Outreach  
 Youth Development  
 Executives of King County

## DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

As 2016 draws to a close, I have the opportunity to look back and see how incredibly productive and fulfilling 2016 has been for Woodland Park Zoo's Education team and the community members we connect with. Every year, Woodland Park Zoo reaches over a million guests, and thousands more participate in the rich array of programming the Education Department offers. Through education programs and outreach activities, we help bring an ethic of caring for, and about, wildlife and wild places to over a million people each year.

This year, I'd like to take the opportunity to highlight the longitudinal impact that Woodland Park Zoo programs have on people's lives. It is a view of how our teams collaborate within our department, within the zoo and within the greater community. We'll take a closer look at how people move through the programs as they age, how our programs evolve to meet changing needs, and how our impact in the community has grown over the years.

The goal of the Woodland Park Zoo Education Department is to create the next generation of conservation stewards. Building on last year's focus areas of "Science and Conservation Education," "Guest Experiences," and "Volunteer and Community Engagements," we'll feature several community members who have entered the zoo family through a specific program and have gone on to become part of the fabric of the zoo through ongoing participation in informal and education programs, volunteer and docent programs, workshops, trainings and internships. Many have gone on to choose careers in a conservation field; there is no greater success for us as a department.

Thank you for all you do to help make this department the strong and effective incubator for conservation supporters, stewards and champions that it has become.

Sincerely,

*Becky Barker*

Becky Barker  
Director of Education



# SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Connecting Children to Nature and Increasing Ecological Literacy

The Science & Conservation Education (S&CE) team at Woodland Park Zoo works at the intersection of formal and informal science education to build ecological literacy and foster conservation stewardship with students of all ages. These programs emphasize the strength of learning across settings, from the zoo to classrooms, from schoolyards to neighborhoods, and from

urban natural settings to remote field settings across the Pacific Northwest. Two of our primary programs—the ZooCrew Summer Learning Program and the Advanced Inquiry Program—employ inquiry-based and problem-based learning strategies, helping participants make connections between global and local conservation issues and actions.



## ZOOCREW SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

Western Washington is known for its amazing outdoor opportunities. In summer 2016, participants in the ZooCrew Summer Learning Program, Woodland Park Zoo's middle school outreach program, took full advantage of those opportunities to sharpen their science skills and explore the ecosystems around Puget Sound.

*A member of ZooCrew engages zoo visitors at Habitat Discovery Loop on exploring local ecosystems.*

## ADVANCED INQUIRY PROGRAM

As part of the Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP), our Northwest Wildlife Conservation course provides graduate students with the opportunity to experience firsthand the coordinated conservation efforts between zoos and field conservation.



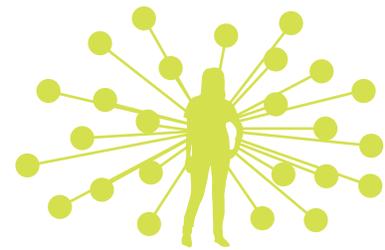
*AIP students head into the field to begin an amphibian monitoring project.*

**7,740** CHILDREN came to CLASSES, CAMPS and OVERNIGHTS

**84** BUG ENTHUSIASTS got up close with beetles, ants and spiders in **BUG CLUB**



**65,953** STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES visited the zoo.



**164** EDUCATORS reached through AIP/educator courses, reaching over **4,100** STUDENTS through their participation.

# NYAILA'S ZOOCREW JOURNEY

Nyaila Flight is a model of the lasting impacts we aim for through the ZooCrew program. She began her journey with WPZ as an after-school 8th grade ZooCrew student and joined our teen volunteer and intern program, ZooCorps, the following year. She immediately started to volunteer at her old school as a ZooCrew assistant, serving as a mentor, leading games and advising on group projects. This summer, she took on even more responsibility as a paid ZooCorps intern for the ZooCrew Summer Learning Program. In a culminating experience, Nyaila and fellow intern, Jane Barr, created their own activity (and built their own watershed model!) about the impacts of pollution and presented it to the program participants.



*"It's cool that I had the chance to be in ZooCrew in middle school, then transition to ZooCorps in high school, and also become a helper for the ZooCrew after-school program. It means a lot to hear the kids say that they want to follow in my footsteps by being in ZooCrew and then going into ZooCorps. It makes me feel like I'm doing something right, and I want to continue making kids interested in joining the youth programs at the zoo."*

– Nyaila

## LOOKING FORWARD...

*In the upcoming year, the S&CE team will continue to focus on how we can both expand and improve our program models that link formal learning in the classroom with informal conservation education in the zoo and the field!*

# ENHANCING THE GUEST EXPERIENCE

## Intensifying the Impact of Engaging Experiences

From the moment our guests set foot inside the zoo, the goal of the Public Programs team is to create the most engaging, exciting and educational experiences possible. By fostering up-close experiences between zoo guests and animals and creating connections to national science learning goals, our

on-grounds zoo programs foster empathy and 21st Century science learning. This year, the Public Programs team crafted and launched two new initiatives: an expanded Ambassador Animal Program and new Science Learning Experience for visiting school groups.

### AMBASSADOR ANIMAL PROGRAM

The Ambassador Animal Program led to the development of new, up-close animal experiences designed to create positive emotional connections, foster empathy and establish a foundation of stewardship with our guests.



Visitors greet Granny, a vulturine guinea fowl.

## SCIENCE LEARNING EXPERIENCES FOR SCHOOLS



In 2016, we integrated the zoo's previous formal school programs into a public program format. A cross-departmental team developed and launched an entirely new school experience intended to connect with Next Generation Science Standards. The experience allows educators to craft a unique experience for their students, who explore one of three driving questions through accompanying public programs and other zoo experiences.

*An elementary school class with their teacher explore the African Savanna exhibit.*

**22,461**

**VISITORS  
TOOK PART IN  
ZOOMAZIUM  
PROGRAMS**



**11,690**

**PEOPLE  
ENJOYED A  
SHOW AT  
ALVORD  
BROADLEAF  
THEATER AND  
WILD CITY**

**59,495**

**VISITORS  
GOT TO  
HEAR A  
KEEPER TALK  
OR SEE AN  
ANIMAL  
PROGRAM**



**195,474**

**VISITORS  
GOT TO FEED  
AN ANIMAL**

# JOAN'S PUBLIC PROGRAMS JOURNEY

*"I've worked in many different positions and with many different colleagues over my six years at WPZ, and no matter what I do, it always feels rewarding. Whether it's telling a 7 year old about the walrus tusk in Zoomazium or picking violet leaves for the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly caterpillars, I know that my work has helped to make a positive impact on the world. Along the way my coworkers have never failed to be supportive, friendly, and all around amazing people. I couldn't ask for a better set of people to spend my summers with."*

*—Joan*

Joan Houser started at the zoo in 2010, working as a ZooCorps volunteer alongside other teens to learn about conservation, animal care and educational programming. After two years of this program, she became an intern in 2012, and joined our interpretation team where she learned how to engage visitors in activities and conversations about the zoo's important conservation work. During this time, Joan also interned with our Silverspot Butterfly team and honed her skills as a conservationist. In 2014, Joan officially became an employee of the zoo's Public Programs team and presented seasonal summer experience programs. Outside the zoo, Joan is currently enrolled at Western Washington University where she is majoring in creative writing, with a minor in environmental studies.



## LOOKING FORWARD...

*This coming year will be exciting as we continue our efforts to provide more integrated animal programming that highlights animal welfare and care, as well as refine year-round programming to incorporate and streamline educational messaging in programs, events and zoo functions.*

# VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## Empowering Conservation Leaders and Deepening Science Education

Woodland Park Zoo engages the communities of Seattle, King County, and the surrounding region through a range of volunteer opportunities and community programs. Through partnerships with community-based organizations—and a focus on access and inclusion for a broad range of community members—our community engagement and outreach programs provide a variety of experiences to learn, care and act on behalf of wildlife. This year, we've expanded two unique opportunities for individuals to engage with local wildlife and create a more sustainable world: Citizen Science Amphibian Monitoring and Nature Club outreach projects.



### NATURE CLUB

*A group of youngsters explores the the Banyan Wilds nature play space.*

In 2016, Nature Club expanded its focus from providing nature-based activities directly to preschool students to providing professional development to early childhood educators. This program seeks to increase educators' exposure to nature, improve their comfort level with teaching outdoors, and help their students develop a stronger connection with the natural environment.

*Karen White, an educator from Whitman Middle School, spots an endangered spotted Oregon frog at Conboy Lake.*



### AMPHIBIAN MONITORING

This year, Citizen Science Amphibian Monitoring expanded as part of the zoo's newly-formed Community Engagement team. As part of our team's goal of increasing equity in educational opportunities, we ensured that the program was accessible to people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, with no science or citizen science experience necessary to participate.



**852 ADULTS AND  
180 TEEN VOLUNTEERS GAVE  
88,181 HOURS OF SERVICE**



We helped  
**7,736 CHILDREN**  
get up close to animals  
in their classrooms



**77 FUTURE  
CONSERVATIONISTS**  
helped the Citizen  
Science Amphibian  
Monitoring program



**1,033  
PRESCHOOL  
CHILDREN and  
TEACHERS** connected  
with nature in  
**NATURE CLUB**

**709,132  
VISITORS** reached  
through **VOLUNTEER**  
programs

## KELLY'S ZOO JOURNEY

Kelly Lindmark, a classroom teacher, grew up visiting Woodland Park Zoo. Excited for the opportunity to return as an adult learner, Kelly enrolled in the Advanced Inquiry Program (AIP) master's degree program. Soon after, Kelly started volunteering as a zoo ambassador and then went through docent training last fall. Through

these positive experiences at the zoo, she decided to make a career change from classroom teacher to informal environmental educator. With her experience in both formal and informal science education, in December 2016 Kelly was selected to fill WPZ's Science & Conservation Education Specialist position!



*"Personally, I have grown in my knowledge of both local and global conservation, and become more confident in sharing and engaging people in learning more about the environment."*

— Kelly

### LOOKING FORWARD...

*In 2017, we plan to expand quality education outreach programming in specific communities and create volunteer opportunities that will reduce barriers to involvement as well as increase the diversity of individuals who engage meaningfully in the zoo's mission.*

# EDUCATION LEADERSHIP TEAM

**WEIYING WONG**

*Vice President of Education*

**BECKY BARKER**

*Director of Education*

**MARGARET WHITE**

*Associate Director, Education Business and Operations*

**KIM HAAS**

*Volunteer and Community Engagement Manager*

**JENNIFER WHITENER**

*Public Programs Manager*

**JAMES BLUHER**

*Volunteer Engagement Supervisor*

**MARY JACKSON**

*Audience Research Supervisor*

**JESSIE MAXWELL**

*Child & Family Programs Supervisor*

**KATIE REMINE**

*Science & Conservation Education Supervisor*

**ELI WEISS**

*Community Engagement Supervisor*

**SARAH WERNER**

*Senior Interpretive Content Developer*

[www.zoo.org](http://www.zoo.org)



WOODLAND PARK ZOO SAVES ANIMALS AND THEIR HABITATS  
THROUGH CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGING  
EXPERIENCES, INSPIRING PEOPLE TO LEARN, CARE AND ACT.