

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Media contact: Gigi Allianic, Alissa Wolken
206.548.2550 | woodlandparkzoo@zoo.org

Pucker up!

Zoo's hippo making kiss "painting" to be raffled off at Spring Safari: African Wildlife Conservation Day



WHAT: No one can resist a hippo kiss; a hippo kiss painting that is. Woodland Park Zoo will raffle off a one-of-a-kind hippo kiss "painting," made by the zoo's very own hippo kiss "painting" artist, 15-year-old female hippo Guadalupe, at the new Spring Safari event.

The press is invited to the hippo barn to watch Guadalupe create the raffle prize painting on **Wednesday, April 13, 2:30 p.m.**

The zoo's hippos have been taught to hold still and allow keepers to give them thorough exams for food rewards. The hippo kiss "painting" is created by applying non-toxic paint to the hippo's mouth, then having the hippo hold very still while a person gently presses a sheet of paper onto her lips, so a painting is created and the hippo gets the treats!

WHEN: **Wednesday, April 13, 2:30-3:00 p.m.**

Spring Safari: African Wildlife Conservation Day: Saturday, April 16, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Meet PR staff at the West Entrance at Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. Park in the Penguin Lot at N. 55th St. & Phinney Ave. N. or Otter Lot off N. 59th St. & Phinney Ave. N.

INFO: The hippo kiss "painting" created by Guadalupe will be raffled off at the zoo's Spring Safari: African Wildlife Conservation Day event which takes place Saturday, April 16, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The zoo's Spring Safari event will celebrate the African savanna and the amazing animals that live there with a full day of activities focused on migration patterns of African animals, educational keeper talks, and special enrichment sessions to heighten awareness about issues such as illegal poaching and habitat loss, and how your choices and actions can help save giraffe, lions, ostrich and other critical savanna animals. A complete schedule of activities can be found [here](#).

Hippos are the third largest living land mammal and one of the most iconic of the African savanna species. Their huge mouths can open to a massive 150 degrees (or 4 feet wide) and their lips are 2 feet wide.

Hippopotamuses are listed as a vulnerable species, primarily because humans have excessively hunted hippos for their meat, fat, ivory teeth and hides. Woodland Park Zoo participates in several field conservation projects which support activities that directly contribute to the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems and habitats; several of these projects are located in the hippo's native habitat of Africa. To learn more about Woodland Park Zoo's conservation efforts, visit www.zoo.org/conservation.

Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, award-winning Woodland Park Zoo is famed for pioneering naturalistic exhibits and setting international standards for zoos in animal care, conservation and education programs. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. By inspiring people to care and act, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future. For more information, visit www.zoo.org.

COST: Spring Safari: African Wildlife Conservation Day is free with zoo admission or membership. Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily. For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

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