

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

For immediate release | June 5, 2016
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Editor note: This gorilla exhibit offers viewing through glass only.

PRESS PREVIEW: Baby gorilla Yola 6-month-old gorilla to make public debut with mom and group

WHAT: The press is invited to see Yola, a 6-month-old, female gorilla, at an exclusive preview **Monday, June 6.**

The baby [western lowland gorilla](#) will make her debut to the community **Tuesday, June 7**, in the outdoor exhibit with her mom, 20-year-old Nadiri, and the other two members of her group, 38-year-old male, Leonel (aka Leo), and 14-year-old female, Akenji.

Yola has been living behind the scenes where, up until a month ago, was under 24/7 care by Woodland Park Zoo gorilla and veterinary staff. Nadiri gave birth naturally but, because she didn't show strong maternal skills, staff had to step in immediately to provide care.

Since her birth in November, Yola has been immersed in the world of gorillas with immediate exposure to her mom and other gorillas—living full time in the sleeping dens of the gorilla exhibit and seeing, hearing and smelling the other gorillas round the clock. Living in the gorilla dens has been a requisite for Yola to learn the complex social cues of gorillas. For the long-term benefits and her welfare, it has been important for Yola to know she is a gorilla, not a human.

WHEN: Press preview: **Monday, June 6, 1:00-2:00 p.m.**
Public debut: **Tuesday, June 7, begins 1:00 p.m. daily depending on weather**

WHERE: Woodland Park Zoo's gorilla exhibit. Meet PR staff at the West Entrance on Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. Park in the Penguin or Otter Lots.

INFO: The process to socialize Yola with her mom and group has been lengthy, but careful and steady. As a result, Yola and her mom have formed a strong bond. A month ago, Nadiri began sleeping through the night with Yola and overnight care by staff was discontinued. Nadiri holds and carries her baby and is increasingly showing protective behavior toward her.

Visit the zoo's [blog](#) for more information on Yola "growing up gorilla" and getting to know her mom and family.

Yola's father is 37-year-old Vip, who has sired six other offspring with three different females at the zoo. He currently lives at the zoo in another group with two females. The other gorillas currently living at Woodland Park Zoo are: females Amanda, 46; Jumoke, 31; Uzumma, 8; and male Pete, 48.

The western lowland gorilla lives in seven countries across west equatorial Africa: southeast Nigeria, Gabon, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Angola and Equatorial Guinea. All gorillas are endangered; the western lowland gorilla is critically endangered. The estimated population of western lowland gorillas in the wild is about 95,000. There are three primary reasons gorillas are endangered. One is habitat destruction caused by



logging, mining, and slash and burn agriculture. The bushmeat trade, facilitated by logging, has become an immediate threat to the western lowland gorilla population, particularly in Cameroon. Additionally, infectious diseases such as the Ebola virus have recently become a great threat, killing many gorillas.

Woodland Park Zoo supports conservation efforts for the critically endangered western lowland gorilla through the [Mbeli Bai Study](#). The study researches the social organization and behaviors of more than 450 lowland gorillas living in the southwest of Nouabale-Ndoki National Park, Republic of Congo. The data collected enables scientists to assess the vulnerability of populations to habitat threats and predict their ability to recover from decline.

Summer zoo hours through September 30: 9:30 a.m.– 6:00 p.m. daily.
Admission through September 30: Adult (13–64) \$19.95; Child (3–12) \$12.25. Free for children 2 and under year round. Active, retired, and veteran U.S. military and their families, seniors and people with disabilities receive an admission discount. Zoo members receive free zoo admission year round.
Parking: \$6.

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

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

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