

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

For immediate release | August 9, 2016
Media contact: Gigi Allianic, Alissa Wolken
206.548.2550 | woodlandparkzoo@zoo.org

Take a walk on the wild side

Asian Wildlife Conservation Day kicks off with snow leopard enrichment

WHAT: Woodland Park Zoo is celebrating Asia's most endangered and elusive wild animals with **Wild Asia: Asian Wildlife Conservation Day** on Saturday, August 13. To kick off the festivities, the zoo will hold a special enrichment session for the snow leopards on **Thursday, August 11 at 2:00 p.m.**



The photo op will be held at the snow leopard exhibit where male Dhirin (Did-un), 11, and female Helen, 11, will receive mutton ribs. The ribs will be hung in varying locations of the exhibit requiring the snow leopards to use their agility and seeking skills to locate and devour their special treat. Enrichment is part of the zookeepers' ongoing efforts to help [enrich the lives of the zoo's animals](#), promote natural animal behavior, keep animals mentally and physically stimulated and engage zoo visitors.

During the photo op, camera traps (remote digital cameras with infrared sensors) will be placed inside the exhibit to demonstrate how they are used in the wild to capture animal populations. Using camera traps is one of the most reputed methods across the world to estimate the abundance of cryptic animals, such as snow leopards. The zoo's conservation Partner for Wildlife, Snow Leopard Trust (attending Wild Asia), uses camera traps as one method to monitor snow leopard populations. They will be available at the event to answer questions about their organization as well as discuss their use of, and share images from, their camera traps. The zoo will also share camera trap images captured during the photo op with press and at Wild Asia.

WHEN: **Photo Op: Thursday, August 11 at 2:00 p.m.**

Asian Wildlife Conservation Day: Saturday, August 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 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 zoo's Asian animals will take center stage during **Wild Asia: Asian Wildlife Conservation Day on Saturday, August 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at Woodland Park Zoo. A complete schedule of activities can be found at <http://www.zoo.org/asianwildlife>.

The event will feature a full day of activities [and photo opportunities] that highlight Asia's diverse animal species and the necessary [conservation efforts](#) critical to their survival in the wild. Guests can enjoy kids' crafts, coloring activities, and keeper talks at the zoo's award-winning Trail of Vines and Banyan Wilds exhibits. All Wild Asia keeper talks, with the exception of tapirs, will include special enrichment for the animals such as hiding food or scented items for the animals to find. During scheduled keeper talks, guests can collect a suite of 10 animal collectible cards, each of which feature an individual animal living at Woodland Park Zoo.

Visitors can also enjoy a full day of Wild Asia Family Fun in the Thai Village, take a palm pledge to choose consumer products that don't have an adverse impact on tropical rain forests and orangutans, and join the zoo's Tiger Team to get updates on tiger conservation news from the field. Visit the Conservation table in the West Plaza to enter to win one-of-a-kind zoo prizes including a limited edition tiger print or a handprint of the zoo's new male siamang, Sam.

Asian Wildlife Conservation Day is free with zoo admission or membership. Zoo open daily - Hours through September 30: 9:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. daily. Admission fees 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 are eligible to receive a discount and zoo members receive free zoo admission year round. Parking: \$6. For more information, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

###