

When will Seattle's tallest baby be born? *Woodland Park Zoo holds giraffe baby pool contest*

SEATTLE— Woodland Park Zoo's 8-year-old giraffe, Tufani (too-fawn-ee), is expecting her first baby. With a gestation period of 14 to 15 months, her birth window ranges from mid-May to early July. While the zoo won't be live streaming the birth like giraffe April, the public is invited to take part in a contest to guess the birth date and sex of Tufani's baby. The winner will receive a variety of great gifts from the zoo, including a chance to visit the baby giraffe!

To enter, participants must fill out and submit an entry form online at www.zoo.org/tallestbaby between Monday, May 1, and Sunday, May 14, 2017. Participants must guess the birth date and sex in order to be eligible to enter.

The participant who accurately guesses the birth date and sex of the baby giraffe will take home the Grand Prize:

- A one-year Annual Pass zoo membership for one family (two named adults and two children)
- A ZooParent giraffe adoption kit
- An opportunity to join a giraffe staff member for a private meet and greet for up to six people at the off-public viewpoint giraffe barn once the baby is a few months old (arranged at a mutually agreeable time)
- A framed photograph of the baby giraffe

For official rules and terms of participation or to submit an entry online, visit www.zoo.org/tallestbaby.

Tufani is expecting her first baby with Woodland Park Zoo's 4-year-old giraffe, Dave. This will be the [first baby for both parents](#) who were paired under a breeding recommendation made by the Giraffe Species Survival Plan (SSP), a conservation breeding program to ensure genetic diversity and demographic stability in North American zoos.

Tufani's baby would mark the second viable giraffe birth at Woodland Park Zoo since 1997, the first being Misawa who was born in August 2013. Misawa, famously known as the ["grumpy face" giraffe](#), captured the hearts of zoo visitors as they watched him grow from a 6-foot-tall curious calf into a 12-foot-tall loving, adventurous adult. In September 2015, Misawa moved to Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas to begin his own family. His father Chioke passed away before he was born but his mother Olivia, Tufani's older sister, still resides at Woodland Park Zoo.

Tufani's experience as Misawa's doting aunt could prove useful for her as a first time mother. "Tufani was a wonderful aunt to Misawa," said Katie Ahl, a lead zookeeper at Woodland Park Zoo. "She was interested in him the minute he was born and was very protective of him. This makes me think she will be a good mom. I also think Dave will be a good herd mate and, based on her experience as a mom, Olivia will be a good aunt."

Tufani can be seen at the award-winning African Savanna with Dave and Olivia until she has the baby. "Now that we're close to her birth window, we'll do daily assessments to see if she is in labor," said Ahl. "We will likely keep Tufani, Dave and Olivia together at the barn if there is a possibility of her giving birth that day. Otherwise it will be business as usual."



Starting May 1, visitors can meet Tufani, Dave and Olivia at the up-close giraffe experience every day but Tuesdays from 10:00–11:00 a.m. and 3:00–4:00 p.m. (visit www.zoo.org for more information). Learn more about Tufani and her pregnancy on the zoo's [blog](#).

Help provide top notch care for Tufani, and other African Savanna animals, by purchasing items from Woodland Park Zoo's "baby shower" gift registry on Amazon: www.zoo.org/registry.

Giraffes give birth while standing, and the calf drops 5 feet from the ground as it is born. About 6 foot tall at birth, infants usually stand within half an hour after birth and can run around with their moms several hours later.

Widespread across southern and eastern Africa, with smaller isolated populations in west and central Africa, new population surveys estimate an overall 36 to 40 percent decline in the giraffe population, from approximately 151,702 to 163,452 in 1985, to 97,562 in 2015. Of the currently recognized subspecies of giraffe, five have decreasing populations, while three are increasing and one is stable.

Giraffe fans can help support conservation efforts by visiting Woodland Park Zoo and supporting Wildlife Survival Fund projects, including the [Giraffe Conservation Foundation](#), which seeks to provide the first long-term ecological monitoring effort of the Angolan giraffe—an important desert-dwelling giraffe subspecies in northwestern Namibia. Visit www.zoo.org/conservation to learn more about the zoo's conservation partnerships taking place in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Woodland Park Zoo participates in 108 SSPs, overseen by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. Led by experts in husbandry, nutrition, veterinary care, behavior, and genetics, SSPs manage populations in North America to maximize their genetic and demographic diversity with the goal of ensuring their long-term survival. SSPs also involve a variety of other collaborative conservation activities such as research, public education, reintroduction and field projects.

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 through more than 35 field projects 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 ecological health and sustainability. Free Wi-Fi is available for zoo guests, made possible through products donated by Cisco. For more information, visit www.zoo.org.

###