

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Watch curious grizzly bears crash a wedding reception! Become “bear smart” at Bear Affair: Living Northwest Conservation Day presented by Brown Bear Car Wash

WHAT: Watch Woodland Park Zoo’s curious and hungry grizzly bears crash a backyard wedding reception (with no human guests, of course) complete with wedding décor, an arbor adorned with grapevines, leftover wedding cake and fruit baskets, floatable swans and wedding gifts.

The press will be given access to the roof overlooking the bear exhibit for the wedding demonstration from **11:00 a.m.-noon**.

The make-believe wedding reception is a part of Woodland Park Zoo’s **Bear Affair: Living Northwest Conservation presented by Brown Bear Car Wash**. The annual conservation event puts the spotlight on the survival of bears, wolves, turtles, raptors and other wildlife in the Pacific Northwest. Practice carnivore awareness by learning what these animals need to survive in the wild, how to help keep them safe and what humans can do to peacefully coexist.

Bear Awareness Week has been proclaimed by Governor Jay Inslee to be June 3–9, 2017.

WHEN: Backyard wedding reception: Saturday, June 3, 11:00 a.m.-noon

Bear Affair: Living Northwest Conservation presented by Brown Bear Car Wash: Saturday, June 3, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

WHERE: Grizzly bear exhibit at Woodland Park Zoo. 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.

WHO: The zoo’s grizzly bear brothers, 23-year-old Keema and Denali. The bears arrived at the zoo in 1994 from Washington State University, which maintains a small collection to conduct a long-term study on bear nutrition.

INFO: Learn bear-proof tips at make-believe demonstrations in the grizzly exhibit where the zoo’s curious—and hungry—grizzly bear brothers offer an up-close look at what happens when food and garbage aren’t stored properly. Stop by the Living Northwest conservation tent for chats with experts, up-close visits with western pond turtles and free seed packets and pollinator-friendly planting guides. Hear talks on river otters, wolves and other animals. Visit with conservation partners from Western Wildlife Outreach, Wolf Haven, Defenders of Wildlife, National Parks Conservation Association, Conservation Northwest, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park and King Conservation District. Watch Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and their partner Karelian bear dogs demonstrate how they train nuisance bears and cougars to avoid human contact. Join artist and storyteller Roger Fernandes as he shares Native American stories about animals and their connection with the other “people” who inhabit the world. Do kids crafts and enjoy videos on bears and western pond turtles.



Enter a free drawing to win a prize: a behind-the-scenes visit with the zoo's grizzly bears, Woodland Park Zoo's new history book "WOODLAND: The Story of the Animals and People of Woodland Park Zoo" or a Living Northwest gift bag. Stop by the Rain Forest Food Pavilion to purchase special fry bread by Lancer Hospitality.

Biologists believe there may be only a handful of or fewer individual grizzly bears remaining in the North Cascades, making these bears the most at-risk population in the U.S., and 50 to 70 in the Selkirk Ecosystem of northeast Washington. The grizzly bear was listed as a threatened species in the contiguous United States in 1975 and listed as endangered by the state of Washington in 1980.

Bear Affair: Living Northwest Conservation Day presented by Brown Bear Car Wash is free with zoo admission or membership. Summer zoo hours, May 1–September 30: 9:30 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. daily. Admission April 1–September 30: Adult (13–64) \$20.95; Child (3–12) \$12.95. 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, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

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