

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

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Media contact: Gigi Allanic, Alissa Wolken
206.548.2550 | woodlandparkzoopr@zoo.org

Red panda celebrates birthday with 4th of July-themed treats! *Animals show their patriotism with Red, White & Zoo July 1-2*

WHAT: As folks gear up for Fourth of July barbecues, fireworks, camping, swimming and other recreation, Woodland Park Zoo will honor its popular red panda, Carson, who turns 3 over the weekend. Carson will be treated to a special snack made especially for a red panda and holiday-themed treats **Friday, June 30**, to celebrate his special day.



The handsome red panda's birthday celebration ushers in the zoo's annual **Red, White & Zoo**—a “wild” picnic for lemurs, otters, grizzly bears, meerkats, wolves, and more—**Saturday–Sunday, July 1–2**. Star-shaped popsicles, watermelon, corn on the cob and other picnic favorites are on the menu for the animals.

[Carson](#) has endeared himself to tens of thousands of zoo guests since he made his debut last April. Born at Lincoln Children's Zoo in Lincoln, Neb., he was named after the famous television host Johnny Carson, who shared the panda's birth city.

The Fourth of July-themed treats are part of the excellent animal care program at Woodland Park Zoo and the zookeepers' ongoing efforts to help [enrich the lives of the animals](#), promote natural animal behavior, keep animals mentally and physically stimulated, and engage zoo visitors.

WHEN: **Photo op for red panda Carson: Friday, June 30, 10:00–10:30 a.m.**

WHERE: Woodland Park Zoo's Temperate Forest. Meet PR staff at the West Entrance on Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts.

INFO: **Red, White & Zoo: Saturday–Sunday, July 1–2, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.** The event is free with zoo admission or membership. A complete schedule of animals and times can be found at <http://www.zoo.org/redwhitezoo>.

[Red pandas](#) share the name of giant pandas, but more closely resemble raccoons. While scientists still debate which family red pandas belong to—raccoons or giant pandas—recent studies suggest they are equally related to three different groups of animals that include skunks, weasels and raccoons.

In the wild, fewer than 10,000 red pandas remain in their native habitat of bamboo forests in China, the Himalayas and Myanmar, and share part of their range with giant pandas. Their numbers are declining due to deforestation, increased agriculture and cattle grazing, and continuing pressure from growing local populations.

Woodland Park Zoo supports the [Red Panda Network](#), whose multi-prong approach aims to conserve this flagship species in Nepal. Help support the project by adopting a red panda through the zoo's ZooParent Adoption Program: www.zoo.org/support/zooparent/redpanda.

Admission through September 30: Adult (13-64) \$20.95; Child (3-12) \$12.95; Toddler (0-2) Free. Active, retired, and veteran U.S. military and their

families, seniors and people with disabilities receive a discount. Zoo members receive free admission year round.

Zoo hours through Sept. 30: 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily. For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500.

Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the zoo for zoo guests, made possible through products donated by Cisco.

Mobile app: Search for the free Woodland Park Zoo mobile app for iPhone, iPad or Android in your app store. Use it to track your location on zoo grounds with GPS, discover more about animals and daily zoo activities, and share the highlights of your visit with friends.

Online ticketing: Avoid lines and buy your general admission tickets in advance at www.zoo.org/visit. Discounts and coupons are not applicable for online ticket purchases.

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