

Spring Safari: African Wildlife Conservation Day pays tribute to zoo's African animals and conservation projects abroad

WHAT: Celebrate African wildlife and the conservation projects working to protect them during Woodland Park Zoo's **Spring Safari: African Wildlife Conservation Day**. This full day of activities focuses on African animals through informative keeper talks, educational activities, and special animal enrichment sessions to heighten awareness about issues such as illegal poaching and habitat loss, and how your choices and actions can help save giraffe, lions, gorillas and other critical African animals.



Kick off the day with a fun, remote camera scavenger hunt. Kids and families will learn what it's like to work as a wildlife ranger or researcher who relies on remote cameras to obtain baseline information on the population and status of endangered and threatened species. Participants will begin by picking up a scavenger hunt sheet (pick-up location info provided at event) and heading out through the zoo's African Savanna to locate remote cameras hidden around the exhibit paths.

Along the way, kids can stop at various stations to participate in fun, educational activities including: learning to identify animals captured on remote cameras in Africa, practicing packing like a wildlife ranger who needs enough resources to survive up to a few nights on the savanna, and determining what souvenir items are safe to bring home when traveling abroad.

Guests will also have the opportunity to meet real wildlife enforcement officers Detective Lauren Wendt and K9 Officer Benny, members of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Police who will be on site to discuss the connection between species being poached and trafficked here in Washington state and what is happening in Africa. Benny and Detective Wendt will be stationed at the WDFW Tip Trailer in the zoo's North Meadow from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Guests can visit the ZooCorps craft table where they can observe origami cacti making and a natural dyes demonstration which teaches guests about the environmental and cultural importance of native plants. Families interested in participating in an upcycling project are encouraged to bring an old t-shirt to Spring Safari and stop by the craft table to learn how to convert the shirt into useful items such as tote bags, dog toys and plush animals.

Zoomazium, the zoo's indoor, nature play space, will feature themed programming for younger kids including an African-inspired story and animal guest at Creature Feature (10:30 a.m.) and a toddler dance

party featuring music from African and other global beats at Shake, Rattle & Roar (11:30 a.m.).

To top off the fun activities, guests can also enter to win a limited edition African wild dog print and an African gift bag by visiting the conservation table located next to the WDFW Tip Trailer in the zoo's North Meadow!

Have electronic devices that need to be thrown out? Bring them to Spring Safari! Woodland Park Zoo is a proud partner with **ECO-CELL**, a company which reimburses organizations for collecting used handheld electronics, batteries and accessories. **ECO-CELL** helps keep electronic waste out of landfills. All items received by **ECO-CELL**, including [batteries](#), accessories and cell [phones](#) that cannot be reused, will be recycled using the best demonstrated technologies for recycling e-waste. Reusing phones and other handheld electronics helps reduce the demand for Coltan, an ore used in phones and other electronic devices. Coltan is mined primarily in the Democratic Republic of the Congo where habitat critical for the survival of endangered species, including the western lowland gorilla, is being destroyed.

All zoo guests are encouraged to bring used handheld electronics (cell phones, MP3 players, handheld games, e-readers, digital still and video cameras, laptops, GPS, portable hard drives, etc.) to the zoo for recycling. Receptacle boxes are available for collection of items at both the South and West Entrances. In addition to funding from ECO-CELL, the zoo will receive \$1 for every device turned in to one of the receptacles on zoo grounds courtesy of the litigation department of the Seattle law firm Lasher, Holzapfel, Sperry & Ebberson. The zoo will use funds from ECO-CELL and the Lasher law firm to support the [Mbeli Bai Gorilla Project](#) and other great ape conservation programs.

WHEN: Saturday, April 14, 9:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Locations and times of activities will be posted at the zoo entrances, or download the Woodland Park Zoo mobile app for activity times and locations.

10:00–2:30: WDFW Tip Trailer and Enforcement Officers

10:00: Lion enrichment

11:00: Gorilla keeper talk

11:30: Red ruffed lemur keeper talk

11:30: Hippo keeper talk with enrichment

1:30: Ring-tailed lemur keeper talk

2:00–3:00: Giraffe up-close experience

2:30: Warthog keeper talk with enrichment

COST: Spring Safari is free with zoo admission or membership. Admission April 1 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 physical disabilities receive an admission discount. Zoo members receive free zoo admission year round.

Avoid lines at the gate and get your tickets for Spring Safari now at www.zoo.org/event or become a member for unlimited and quick admission all year long! Discounts and coupons are not applicable for online tickets.

INFO: Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily through April 30.

Parking: \$6 plus applicable state and local taxes. Consider taking the bus, biking, walking or carpooling. For bus service to the zoo, visit: www.metro.kingcounty.gov.

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

Mobile app: Download the free Woodland Park Zoo mobile app for iPhone, iPad or Android from 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.

Quarters for Conservation: A portion of your zoo admission and membership is dedicated to funding conservation programs in the wild. Cast your vote for your favorite conservation project at the Quarters for Conservation kiosks located at each entrance.

Gifts/Food: Explore the ZooStores for unique gifts and souvenirs and the Rain Forest Food Pavilion to quench your thirst and appetite.

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

Woodland Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and certified by the rigorous American Humane Conservation program. The Humane Certified™ seal of approval is another important validation of the zoo's long-standing tradition of meeting the highest standards in animal welfare. 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 saving wildlife and inspiring everyone to make conservation a priority in their lives, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future ecological health and sustainability. Visit www.zoo.org and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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