

## Learn to coexist with Pacific Northwest carnivores

**WHAT:** Curious about the wild carnivores that live in your neighborhood? Woodland Park Zoo is teaming up with the Issaquah School District and the City of Issaquah to provide several events to help local communities learn and share thoughts about coexisting with Pacific Northwest carnivores.



Through the Coexisting With Carnivores project, Issaquah middle school students, families, and residents will gain knowledge of local carnivores and their role in creating healthy local ecosystems, as well as engage in community-driven learning and problem-solving around issues of human-wildlife interaction in a growing region.

The project consists of two components:

**Wild Wise: Coexisting With Carnivores**, a partnership between Woodland Park Zoo and Issaquah School District, offers middle school students a chance to develop science inquiry, civic literacy, and leadership skills as they investigate and share solutions for living with the carnivores in their communities. The culmination of this component is a town hall style event in June where students share findings from their scientific investigations on how carnivores use resources in the Issaquah area to meet their needs. The students also provide evidence-based recommendations that assist the community in making carnivore positive choices.

**Our Community, Our Carnivores**, a program co-facilitated by Woodland Park Zoo and the City of Issaquah, focuses on community-developed strategies to prevent human-wildlife conflict in the region and foster a sense of pride for local wildlife. Woodland Park Zoo and its partners will host open houses in May in Issaquah featuring community learning activities focused on human-carnivore interactions in the Issaquah area.

**WHEN:** **Saturday, May 5, 10:00 a.m. to noon**  
Cosponsored with the Issaquah Highlands Council  
Family-friendly community event, Issaquah Highlands, Blakely Hall  
\*Event for residents of Issaquah Highlands community only.  
[www.zoo.org/highlands](http://www.zoo.org/highlands)

**Thursday, May 10, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**  
Family-friendly community event, Rogue Ales Issaquah Brewhouse  
[www.zoo.org/brewhouse](http://www.zoo.org/brewhouse)

**Wednesday, June 6, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

Coexisting With Carnivores presentations from Issaquah Middle School students, Issaquah Middle School Commons.

<https://www.zoo.org/coexisting>

**COST:** Free.

**INFO:** Coexisting With Carnivores is a project of Woodland Park Zoo's [Living Northwest](#) program that supports field conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest. The project is funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The three-year grant allows Woodland Park Zoo to establish a community-based science education and conservation model that equips residents in Issaquah, Wash. to coexist safely with carnivores.

Issaquah and the neighboring communities of east King County lie at the intersection of expanding urban settlement and iconic wilderness. Surrounded by forested mountains on three sides and Lake Sammamish to the north, the area is also home to abundant wildlife including some of Washington's most charismatic carnivores: black bears, coyotes, bobcats and cougars. At the interface of urbanization and wilderness, there is sometimes human-animal conflict. As the Pacific Northwest region continues to grow, it is critical that families learn how to coexist with wildlife and appreciate nature around them. Coexisting With Carnivores allows Woodland Park Zoo to continue its successful work with local schools and have a deeper engagement with local communities about this important issue.

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](http://www.zoo.org) and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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