

Woodland Park Zoo Earns Meritorious AZA Accreditation

Silver Spring, Maryland (September 9, 2019) – The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) has announced that Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, WA, was granted accreditation by AZA's independent Accreditation Commission.



"Only the very best aquariums and zoos can meet AZA's accreditation standards for animal care and welfare, conservation, education, and more, which are the most rigorous in the profession," said AZA President and CEO Dan Ashe. "By achieving AZA accreditation, Woodland Park Zoo demonstrates a commitment to protecting animals around the world and inspiring their guests to do the same."

To be accredited, Woodland Park Zoo underwent a thorough review to make certain it has and will continue to meet ever-rising standards in categories which include animal care and welfare, veterinary programs, conservation, education, and safety. AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to be members of the Association.

The accreditation process includes a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspecting team observes all aspects of the facility's operation, including animal care and welfare; keeper training; safety for visitors, staff and animals; educational programs; conservation efforts; veterinary programs; financial stability; risk management; visitor services; and more. Finally, top officials are interviewed at a formal hearing of AZA's independent Accreditation Commission, after which accreditation is granted, tabled, or denied. Any facility that is denied may reapply one year after the Commission's decision is made.

Woodland Park Zoo has been an accredited AZA member since 1982. Among many achievements mentioned by the most recent AZA inspection team, Woodland Park Zoo was credited with responsible animal management and a commitment to animal welfare, outstanding conservation plans and initiatives, exceptional quality grounds and immersive guest experiences, positive culture change, innovative programs and animal care solutions, and strong leadership in sustainability.

“Saving species in the wild is the heart of our work, but we can’t succeed in that mission if we don’t first do our best to serve the animals here in our care. This accreditation validates that we are living up to the high standards we set for ourselves and those that our community rightfully expects of us,” said Woodland Park Zoo President and CEO Alejandro Grajal. “At the root of all of our achievements is an incredible staff and supportive community. They are the true drivers of our success and they are the reason our wildlife conservation goals will become a reality.”

About AZA

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, animal welfare, education, science, and recreation. AZA is the accrediting body for the top zoos and aquariums in the United States and eleven other countries. Look for the AZA accreditation logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. The AZA is a leader in saving species and your link to helping animals all over the world. To learn more, visit www.aza.org.

About Woodland Park Zoo

Founded in 1899, Woodland Park Zoo engages more than a million visitors of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and walks of life in extraordinary experiences with animals, inspiring them to make conservation a priority in their lives. The zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats in the wild through more than 35 wildlife conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. 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. Visit www.zoo.org and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

To support Woodland Park Zoo's outstanding animal care and welfare, please consider joining Woodland Park Zoo for **All for Animals Giving Day on October 2, 2019** to protect wildlife, inspire future generations and care for animals. Your donation matters, and for the zoo’s first-ever Giving Day, eight campaigns give you the option of how you want to support your zoo. Visit givingday.zoo.org to make your gift and make a difference. Early giving begins on September 18, 2019.

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