Get batty with the zoo!
Bat Activity Trends announces full list of sunset meetups

WHAT: Join Woodland Park Zoo's newest community science program, *Bat Activity Trends,* to observe bats in your neighborhood. Bats are nocturnal mammals most active now during the summer months, with activity peaking from June to August.

Bat Activity Trends seeks to educate the community about these often-misunderstood mammals, monitor bat activity in the region and empower participation in community science.

For the remainder of August, you're invited to participate in a series of sunset meetups at locations all around the Seattle area. All meetups begin at or around sunset.

WHEN/WHERE:

- August 17 at Seward Park, Seattle (Hosted by Seward Park Audubon)
- August 19 at Rainier Beach Urban Farm and Wetlands, Seattle (Hosted by Tilth Alliance)
- August 24 at the Tukwila Community Center, Tukwila (Hosted by Green Tukwila)
- August 25 at Greenlake Park, Seattle (Hosted by Bats Northwest)
- August 26 at Olympic Sculpture Park, Seattle (Hosted by Seattle Art Museum)
- August 27 at Shadow Lake Nature Preserve, Renton (Hosted by Shadow Lake Nature Preserve)

HOW: Visit www.zoo.org/batactivity to find more details about how to attend the sunset meetups. It's not a guarantee you'll see bats, but you'll likely have a lot of fun and learn more about these fascinating creatures.

You can also participate in Bat Activity Trends on your own at home by downloading a participation packet and learning how to document bat activity. Simply go for a walk, visit a park or watch for bats in your backyard to document activity to send to the zoo.

The program focuses on building a map of participants' data from King County, but data submissions from anywhere in the United States are accepted.

INFO: Washington state is home to 14 bat species, 10 of which can be found statewide; four occur only in Eastern Washington. All Wash. bats are insectivores, meaning they feed on insects.

Bats are one of the most diverse groups of mammals in the animal kingdom and are essential to our ecosystem as pollinators, seed dispersers and pest

controllers. Their nocturnal nature makes them a bit more mysterious than other creatures, and they often don't get the credit they deserve.

Bat populations face many threats around the world, including habitat destruction, wind turbine disruption, climate change and light pollution. In addition, the emergence of white-nose syndrome (WNS) in the eastern U.S. in 2006 has killed millions of bats. WNS is a disease caused by a fungus, and it has since been found in Europe and Asia. WNS was first discovered in Washington state in 2016. Scientists are still determining the impacts on Washington bats and this new program will help with that effort.

To learn more about bats and the efforts to save the species visit www.zoo.org/batconservation.

HOW TO PROTECT BATS:

- *Share about bats*: One of the biggest steps you can take to help bats is to learn about them and share information with friends and family. Fear and misunderstanding can harm bats, so it's important to educate everyone about all the good things bats do for us.

- *Provide a home*: You can provide a habitat for bats in your yard by leaving hollow trees and snags standing or installing a bat house. Keep cats indoors and reduce your use of pesticides or other chemicals in your yard.

- *Contribute to research:* Get involved with the Bat Activity Trends program and help us learn more about bats in Western Washington.

Woodland Park Zoo offers a safe, outdoor experience for all. Visit www.zoo.org for information. Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. daily.

Accessibility: Information about accessibility and resources, one-to-one aides, sighted guides, mobility equipment rentals, and a sensory map and tools, can be found at www.zoo.org/access. For questions or to request disability accommodations for zoo programs or events, contact zooinfo@zoo.org.

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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