

Mission Statement

The Indianapolis Zoo will empower people and communities, both locally and globally, to advance animal conservation.

indianapoliszoo.com

Indianapolis Zoo

1200 West Washington Street P.O. Box 22309 Indianapolis, Indiana 46222.0309 ph 317.630.2001 fx 317.630.5153

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Maura Giles
Public Relations Specialist
(317) 630-3265
General Public Information:
(317) 630-2001

April-May Happenings at the Indianapolis Zoo
Featuring Butterflies, Extended Hours and New Cheetah Exhibit!

INDIANAPOLIS — From April 1 through May 27, the Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens will be open from 9am to 4pm Monday through Thursday, and 9am to 5pm Friday through Sunday. Beginning May 28, the Zoo will have new extended hours for weekends and holidays. The Zoo will be open 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday, and 9am-7pm Friday-Sunday and holidays.

- **The Zoo will be open from 9am to 7pm on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31.**
- **Cheetah: The Race for Survival opens to the public at the Indianapolis Zoo on Friday, May 28.**



SPRING ADMISSION PRICES

Adults	\$14.50
Seniors (62+) & Youths (ages 2-12)	\$9.50
Youths (ages one and under)	FREE
Community Tuesday presented by Indianapolis Power & Light Co. – April 6, May 4, June 1, July 6, August 3, September 7, October 5	\$7.00
Parking	\$6.00

RIDES

Available on weekends only; rides are crowd and weather dependent. Single ticket is \$2.25. Combo rides tickets: 7 tickets are \$12.00 and 12 tickets are \$20.00.

- *Kōmbo Family Coaster*: 1 ticket (Must be 38" tall to ride. Children between 38" and 47" must ride with an adult. Persons 47" and taller may ride alone. Some physical conditions may prevent a person from riding.)
- *Train Ride*: 1 ticket
- *4-D Ride*: 2 tickets (Must be 38" tall to ride.)
- *Carousel*: 1 ticket (Children ages 3 and under must ride with an adult.)
- *Pony Ride*: 1 ticket (Times and dates vary as posted.)

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SHOWS

All shows/chats are staff and weather dependent. Admission to shows is included in regular Zoo admission. A complete list of shows/chats and times will be available in early 2010 on the Zoo web site under Visitor Information.

EVENTS

Community Tuesday

April 7 and May 5

Community Tuesdays are held on the first Tuesday of the month from March through November. This well-received event allows the Indianapolis Zoo to make visiting Indianapolis's premier attraction easier for price-conscious families. A substantially reduced price of \$7.00 instead of the regular admission price of \$14.50 allows visitors to enjoy the Indianapolis Zoo at nearly half price.

Butterflies presented by Citizens Energy Group

March 20 - September 7

The very popular "Butterflies" show returns to White River Gardens. The Hilbert Conservatory comes to life with colorful species of butterflies and plants. Thousands of free-flying exotic and native butterflies provide a calming ambiance inside the Conservatory, complete with the gentle sounds of flowing water and soothing music, creating an experience in beauty and relaxation that is enjoyable for young and old alike.

Each week during "Butterflies," the Gardens receives shipments of approximately 900 to 1,200 pupae of 25 to 30 different butterfly species from Florida, Costa Rica and Africa. The pupae are put into emergence chambers, where they hatch into beautiful butterflies and are released to fly freely inside the Conservatory. Approximately 1,500 to 2,000 butterflies will be in free flight at any given time. Some featured "regulars" of the butterfly exhibit include the common Julia, the Blue Morpho, the Giant Owl, Postman, Admiral, Zebra Longwing, and Giant Swallowtail.

Guests will be mesmerized with the butterflies' aerial acrobatics as they soar over a varied assortment of tropical plants selected by the White River Gardens staff. These plants provide a lush and colorful setting for the butterflies as well as supplying them with a generous supply of nectar-like syrup. The keepers supplement the butterfly diets with fruits such as bananas, watermelon, grapes, kiwi and apples. These fruit feeding dishes are often the

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gathering spots for many butterflies, and offer guests great viewing and photography opportunities.

White River Gardens exhibits butterflies under a rigorous permit from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Throughout the show, thousands of butterflies complete their adult life cycles inside Hilbert Conservatory, which range from one week up to three weeks depending on the species. They are tended to daily by keepers and volunteers, and are provided with everything they need with one exception. Among all the beautiful plants there are no “host” plants to stimulate laying eggs or support larval feeding, per our USDA permit. Therefore, only the adult butterflies and their chrysalises are on display. New shipments of chrysalises are received every week so the visitor experience of these beautiful creatures is always changing. “Butterflies presented by Citizens Energy Group” is free for Indianapolis Zoo members and included with regular Zoo admission.

NOTE: Visitors to the Gardens should not miss the annual mass display of bulb flowers in the outside DeHaan Tiergarten – most especially the thousands of tulips! Peak bloom usually coincides with April 15.

Power Recycling Weekend

April 24-25

Bring old electronics to the Indianapolis Zoo and recycle them in an environmentally responsible way as the Power Recycling Weekend returns for a second year. Most electronics—including microwaves, cell phones, and keyboards—will be accepted. All computer hard drives will be double-swiped clean before they are destroyed. Please note that there is a small processing fee for TVs and monitors. Otherwise the service is free. Look for the special signs in the Zoo parking lot to find the drop off areas. Refrigerators, washers and dryers, and air conditioners will not be accepted. A list of acceptable items will be posted on the Zoo web site at indianapoliszoo.com under Special Events closer to the event date.

Zoopolis 500 presented by the American Dairy Association

May 26

A variety of radiated tortoises hit the track for the 28th annual Zoopolis 500 presented by the American Dairy Association at the Indianapolis Zoo. This annual racing tradition will feature several radiated tortoises instead of traditional racers, Aldabra tortoises “Lyn” and “A.J.,” who

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have retired from the racing scene. The Zoopolis 500 is the Zoo's version of the Indianapolis 500 mile race and will be held on the traditional Wednesday before the big race. The Zoo is honored to have IRL star driver Tony Kanaan return as Grand Marshall and Race Steward, along with race caller Mike King, the voice of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Network.

The tortoises compete to reach the checkered flag and a full plate of fruit on a course located in the Dean's Encounters Arena. This outdoor arena, which is used for elephant shows and other special events, includes stadium-style seating for optimal viewing. Pre-race activities take place from 11 to 11:30am, including a parade, visits with mascots and chats with the Zoo's tortoise experts. The green flag drops at 11:30am. This fun event is free with paid Zoo admission.

Cheetah: The Race for Survival

Opening Memorial Day Weekend, May 28

A Gift of Polly Hix and Tony Fair, and in partnership through a conservation education gift from The Tony Stewart Foundation

This brand new 10,000 square foot permanent Zoo exhibit will feature the world's fastest land animal and one of the most endangered cats on Earth – the magnificent cheetah. The entire exhibit has been designed with two distinct areas for the cheetahs—split by a segment of the walkway—with both areas populated by strategically planted trees and rocky outcrops that allow for both close viewing by Zoo visitors and enrichment for the cheetahs. Visitors will have an unparalleled view of the Plains Biome, with lions, zebras, ostriches, elephants and cheetahs stretching out across the horizon, alongside the newest members of the African Plains animal family – wildebeests. The exhibit also features bat-eared foxes and yellow hornbills.

One of the exhibit's most interactive features is the "Race-a-Cheetah" speedway. Visitors can test their sprint times against an LED light array that approximates the speed of a cheetah. It also includes educational graphics featuring NASCAR driver and Indiana native Tony Stewart, whose Foundation is a partner on this exhibit, supporting education as a vital part of the zoo-going experience. All net proceeds from "Race-a-Cheetah" go to support the community-based conservation programs of the Cheetah Conservation Fund based in Namibia. Also, daily chats at the exhibit will detail the use of special livestock guard dogs in Africa that deter farmers from killing these beautiful animals. Cheetah: The Race for Survival is included in regular Zoo admission.

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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2010 Indianapolis Zoo Camps

In partnership through a conservation education gift from the Tony Stewart Foundation

Zoo Camps are designed with age appropriate activities to encourage the discovery and appreciation of wildlife. Campers will have the opportunity to make new friends and explore the Zoo while participating in games, crafts, tours, shows, animal visits and more. Zoo camps are well supervised with trained camp staff. Space is limited and camps do sell out, so sign up early.

- **Camp Registration Information**

Registration for the 2010 Zoo Camps begins on Monday, January 25, 2010, for Zoo members and on Monday, February 1, 2010, for non-members. Registration for camps may be done online at indianapoliszoo.com anytime, by phone at (317) 630-2000, or in person at the Zoo's Hix Institute, Monday through Friday from 10am to 3pm. Online and phone registrations require a credit card payment (MC, Visa, and Discover). Registrations in person may be made with cash, check or credit card. Mail-in registrations are not accepted.

- **Camp Cancellations**

If the Zoo cancels a camp, you will be notified directly. You will receive the opportunity to switch to another camp or receive a refund for the price of the camp. Otherwise, **no refunds or rescheduling of camps is allowed.**

- **Snacks and Lunches**

Campers will need to bring a lunch, drinks and snacks each day.

- **Extended Daycare**

For your convenience we offer extended after care for our summer camps from 3-4:30pm. Children are supervised in a classroom with various activities available. Pre-registration is required. Monday through Friday 3-4:30pm: \$45 for the five-day camps and \$27 for the three-day camps.

Three-Day Mini Camps

Indianapolis Zoo Members \$145; Non-members \$170

All three-day camps run 8am to 3pm on designated dates. (Aftercare is available until 4:30pm. Additional fee applies.)

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June 7-9

- 5 & 6 year-olds, Animal Tales
The world is filled with animal stories. Campers in this camp will hear stories, create crafts and meet some the animals from these stories.
- 7 & 8 year-olds, Animals Now & Then
Campers will journey through the Zoo exploring today's animals and comparing them with animals of the past.
- 9 & 10 year-olds, Animal Investigations
With games, crafts, animal encounters and behind-the-scenes tours campers will explore the animal world and discover ways they can help save wildlife.

Five-Day Summer Camps

Indianapolis Zoo Members \$225; Non-Members \$250

All five-day camps are Monday through Friday, 8am – 3pm. (Aftercare is available until 4:30pm. Additional fee applies.)

- 5 & 6 year-olds, Animal Detectives
Campers will become animal detectives and discover a variety of animals while solving some animal who-dun-its.
June 14-18, July 12-16
- 5 & 6 year-olds, Who Lives Where?
Campers will travel the Zoo and see animals from around the world! Explore the many habitats found on earth as well as discover a little about our diverse cultures.
June 28 – July 2, July 26-30
- 5 & 6 year-olds, Art Safari
Let the animals inspire your artwork on this Art Safari of discovery. Campers will visit animals and be involved in special art projects.
July 5-9
- 7 & 8 year-olds, What's For Dinner?
See what's on the menu at the Zoo. Learn what and how animals eat and discover what it takes to feed the Zoo's animals.
June 14-18, July 19-23
- 7 & 8 year-olds, Going Green
Learn about the animals, plants and habitats of our world and how you can help by being "green."
June 21-25, July 26-30
- 7 & 8 year-olds, Animal Signs
How do you know an animal is near or passed through an area? Discover the signs animals leave behind.
July 5-9

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Happenings April-May

- 9 & 10 year-olds, Animal Adaptations
Webbed feet, spines, suction cups and fringed feathers are all types of adaptations. Come spend a week exploring the weird, bizarre and wild world of animal adaptations.
June 14-18, July 19-23
- 9 & 10 year-olds, Mission: SOS-Save Our Species
Species are disappearing at alarming rates around the world. Campers will see what the Zoo is doing to help save the Earth's endangered species and learn what they can do to help.
June 28 – July 2, July 26-30
- 9 & 10 year-olds, Wildlife Trek
Explore the animals, habitats and cultures of the world on a Wildlife Trek at the Zoo.
July 12 – 16
- 10-12 year-olds, Animal Snapshots
Campers will be guided in several exercises to help improve their observation and picture taking skills while watching and learning about the Zoo's animals. *Campers should bring a digital camera.
June 21-25
- 10-12 year-olds, Conservation Connection
Make a "conservation connection" and see how you can help save species and habitats around the world.
July 5 – 9
- 11 & 12 year-olds, Animal Survivor
Explore the ways animals survive. Learn what people are doing to help with the survival of animal species and participate in team challenges for our own "Zoo Survivors."
June 28 – July 2
- 11 & 12 year-olds, Wildlife Technology
Learn how scientists use technology to study the planet's wildlife from entire ecosystems to individual species. Try your hand at using some of the technology.
July 19-23
- 13 & 14 year-olds, Wildlife Conservation
Campers will focus on conservation of the planet and its inhabitants. Camp will include special behind-the-scenes, animal encounters, and activities as well as trips to the IMAX Theater, Indiana State Museum and Eiteljorg Museum.
June 21-25
- 13\14 Wildlife Science
Campers will focus on the science of plants and animals. Camp will include trips to the IMAX Theater, Indiana State Museum and Eiteljorg Museum.
July 12-16

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2010 Overnight Adventures at the Indianapolis Zoo

The Indianapolis Zoo offers two types of overnight programs—for educational groups and scouts. Both programs include an evening full of activities, including an after-hours tour, an animal encounter, and educational games and activities. The group then sleeps in the Dolphin Gallery or Oceans building, has a breakfast buffet provided by Centerplate, and then takes a self-guided field trip the next day throughout the Indianapolis Zoo and White River Gardens. Also, continuing for 2010 are the wildly popular African Summer Safaris. This is a Nocturnal Adventure like no other. Zoo Summer Safaris are recommended for third grade students and older, including schools, scout groups, church groups, day care centers, 4-H groups and adults. Any group that spends the night at the Zoo must be able to provide a certificate of liability insurance. To register and check out available dates, visit the Zoo's web site at indianapoliszoo.com and click on Education, Overnight Adventures.

ZooMobile Booking Now

The Indianapolis Zoo's ZooMobile programs are designed for preschool and elementary schools and to deliver programs that are educational and meaningful for students. Since 1995, the Zoo has used the ZooMobile as the way of getting the Zoo's message of animal awareness and conservation out into the community, including Indianapolis and much of Central Indiana. ZooMobile programs provide an exciting opportunity for people to get an up close and personal experience with live animals. A ZooMobile program is a great tool for educating while entertaining. All of the ZooMobile programs are presented by specially trained staff and utilize a diverse group of animals. For more information, visit the Zoo's web site at indianapoliszoo.com and click on Education, ZooMobile.

For images or more information, the media may contact:

Maura Giles, Public Relations Specialist, at (317) 630-3265.

Do not use this phone number for the general public to call for further information.

The public should call (317) 630-2001 for more information on Zoo events.

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About the Indianapolis Zoo

Located in White River State Park downtown, the Indianapolis Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the American Association of Museums as a zoo, aquarium and botanical garden. The Indianapolis Zoo will empower people and communities, both locally and globally, to advance animal conservation. Look for the AZA 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.