

# WILD

# THINGS

NOV/DEC  
2023



8

*New Holiday Options*



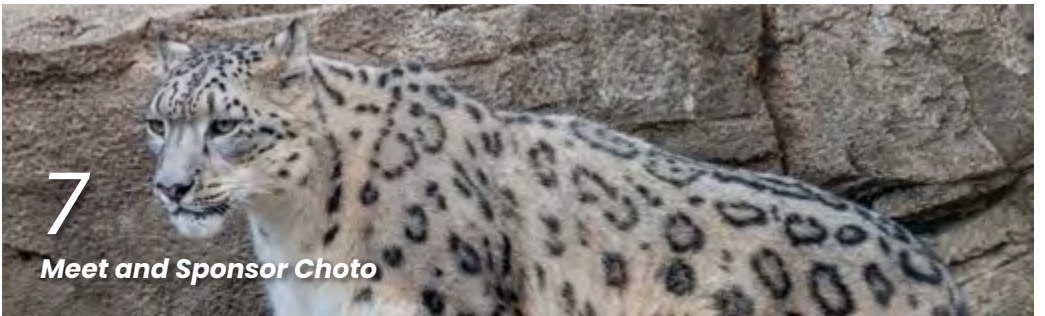
15

*Spring Zoo Class Brochure*



23

*When Not to Rake*



7

*Meet and Sponsor Choto*



DEC  
1-31

# TIME TO SPRUCE THINGS UP



Photos by Garrett Hopkins

## Fantastic Forest

Sponsored by Hawks Landscape

Holidays are filled with tradition, and at the Zoological Society our tradition includes the community coming together to create a Fantastic Forest. This event allows local youth groups to handmade animal-themed ornaments and then decorate trees inside the Zoo. Around 60 youth groups will participate in bringing a little extra cheer to the holiday season.

The trees will be located inside the U.S. Bank Gathering Place throughout December, serving as the perfect starting point for the Zoo's holiday light display throughout the park. (Read more about Wild Lights on page 8.) Guests may see a giraffe ornament made from toilet paper rolls before seeing a life-sized giraffe holiday display outside. The Fantastic Forest offers a fantastic opportunity for local youth to learn about animals, unleash their creativity, showcase their work and engage the community. If you are interested in signing up your youth group or learning more about the Fantastic Forest, visit:

[zoosociety.org/TrimATree](http://zoosociety.org/TrimATree)



### Cover Photos:

Wild Lights and Zoo Class are by Garrett Hopkins, leaves by Olga Kornienko, snow leopard by Joel Miller



Printed on recycled paper.



## MEMBERANDA

### Zoo hours:

Nov. 1-Feb. 29: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. weekdays, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends.  
Closed on Nov. 23, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

### Zoological Society office hours:

Daily, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

### Society Office holiday hours:

The Zoological Society offices will be closed on Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The office will remain open from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Dec. 24. Visit us online at [zoopass.com](http://zoopass.com) anytime.

**Payment information at Zoo admission gates:** The Milwaukee County Zoo staff does not accept checks for Zoo Pass purchases or renewal payments at the Zoo's admission gates. Please contact our office at 414-258-2333 if you would like to schedule a time to pick up or purchase a Zoo Pass or Sponsor an Animal gift package.

### Tax-deductible portions for the Zoo Pass categories are:

- Individual (Basic: \$95, Plus: \$111)
- Individual +1 or Couple (Basic: \$110, Plus: \$125)
- Individual +2, Family and Single Adult Family (Basic: \$120, Plus: \$140)
- Family +1 (Basic: \$135, Plus: \$149)
- Family +2 (Basic: \$146, Plus: \$158)
- Family +3 (Basic: \$162, Plus: \$176)
- Affiliate (Basic: \$194, Plus: \$197)
- Benefactor (Basic: \$258, Plus: \$260)

A gift Zoo Pass is fully tax deductible for the donor.

**Reciprocal Zoos and Aquariums:** We update our list of zoos and aquariums that offer reduced or free admission to our members with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums each year. We only reciprocate with AZA-accredited facilities and reserve the right to not reciprocate with zoos and aquariums located within close proximity of the Milwaukee County Zoo. Please be sure to contact the zoo you plan to visit to confirm reciprocity.

**Moving?** Please call us when you change your address or name. The call saves us money because when the post office returns your mail with a forwarding address, we pay twice for mailing: to the old address and the new. If you've changed your address on your identification, replacement Zoo Pass cards may be purchased with the new information for \$5.



### WILD THINGS

Issue No. 165, Nov.-Dec. 2023

Wild Things is a membership newsletter published by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee five times a year.

Editor & Writer: Katie Krecklow  
Designer: Kevin McIntosh

Contact the Zoological Society at:  
10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226  
Phone: 414-258-2333 Web: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

Contact the Milwaukee County Zoo at:  
10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226  
Phone: 414-256-5412 Web: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)

# GIVING TREE

## Even animals need gifts this holiday season.

And since you probably don't know exactly what they need, stop by the Giving Tree inside the U.S. Bank Gathering Place this December. The Giving Tree is decorated with paper ornaments featuring animal enrichment items requested by zookeepers like quinoa, spices, cologne or even a blender. Enrichment is used to enhance all aspects of an animal's wellbeing by addressing the behavioral, environmental, physical, psychological and social needs of the species. Other gift options include gift cards so the zookeepers can get what the animals need.

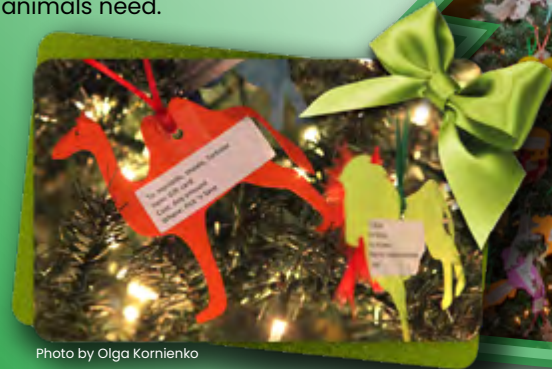


Photo by Olga Kornienko



Photo by Kevin McIntosh

DEC  
26-30

# CHILL OUT AT THE ZOO

## Frosty Free Week

Sponsored by Generac

Get ready to embark on an exciting adventure without breaking the bank because Frosty Free Week is back! For five days in a row, your favorite Zoo is opening its gates to visitors of all ages with a heartwarming offer: free admission for everyone. (Parking and concession fees still apply.)

This frosty-themed event is not just about saving money; it's an opportunity to connect with nature and wildlife like never before. With free entry, families, friends and individuals can immerse themselves in the animal kingdom's wonders.

Explore the habitats of majestic lions, playful penguins, and elusive snow leopards. Witness the fascinating behaviors of our furry and feathered friends. So bundle up, grab your loved ones and head to the Zoo for a week of frosty fun that won't freeze your wallet!



Photos by Bob Wickland

# ONE-OF-A-KIND GIFTS



Whether you're shopping for holiday gifts or giving gift ideas for family members – *a Zoo Pass is your answer.*

## Here's what it includes:

- Free regular Milwaukee County Zoo admission
- Attraction coupons that can be used for a ride on the North Shore Bank Safari Train, Penzeys Carousel or admission to the Zoo's 2024 special summer exhibit
- Discounts on several additional attractions
- Discounted or free admission to 150 zoos and aquariums
- Discounts and priority registration for fundraising events and Zoo Classes/ Camps
- Access to members-only events
- A plush-toy tiger (for new gifts only, while supplies last)

*Plus, Zoo Pass gift purchases are tax deductible!*



**NEW ornament**  
Scimitar-horned oryx

## 2023 Ornament

Each year, the Zoological Society picks an animal to be featured as an ornament. This year, we've chosen the scimitar-horned oryx. The Zoo is home to three females, and they wow guests with their very long and curved horns. The ornament, handcrafted by local artist Andy Schumann, is made from pewter and costs \$16, which includes shipping and handling. Visit [zoosociety.org/ornaments](https://zoosociety.org/ornaments) to buy this ornament or browse ornaments from previous years.

## Sponsor an Animal

Sponsoring an animal at the Milwaukee County Zoo is a great gift for any occasion. Dozens of animals are available for sponsorship or you can choose our limited-time offer, which includes a plush-toy snow leopard. Visit [zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal](https://zoosociety.org/SponsorAnimal) to see all we have to offer or to place an order.



**Current Limited-Time Offer - Snow leopard "Choto"**

**Undecided?** Consider purchasing a gift card through the Zoological Society. Our gift cards can be used for a variety of options, including Zoo Passes, Zoo Classes or Camps, animal sponsorships or Society fundraising events like Snooze at the Zoo. You can purchase a gift card in any amount. Go to [zoosociety.org/GiftCard](https://zoosociety.org/GiftCard).

# RELATIONSHIP GOALS

The phenomenon over love languages has many people realizing what they need to feel loved, along with what their mate needs, in hopes of a lasting relationship. Love languages have been categorized as physical touch, gifts, acts of service and quality time. While observing the rhinoceros hornbills inside the bird building at the Milwaukee County Zoo, you will see a pair that has their love languages down.

Victor and Vianna were introduced to each other 13 years ago. One of the ways they court each other is through food. It's a common practice in the bird world. For example, when a zookeeper enters their habitat to offer them crickets, female Vianna will catch the crickets thrown to her only to offer it to her mate, Victor. Zookeeper Bryan Kwiatkowski says it's not that she doesn't like crickets. "She does consume them when offered in enrichment feeders, but when

animal care specialists toss them to the pair, her preference is to offer them to her mate." The two will share other foods such as mango, papaya and blueberries to name a few.

Rhinoceros hornbills are monogamous and can take things slow in the relationship. The species becomes sexually mature around 5 years of age. Then, when they find a mate they enter what Kwiatkowski calls, the "playing house" phase. "Each year the pair gets a little more comfortable in their environment and with each other: inspecting the nest cavity, jousting with their bills, playfully chasing, loudly vocalizing, copulating and bringing each other food throughout the year to demonstrate their commitment," Kwiatkowski explains. See if you can spot their love languages the next time you come to the Zoo.

## Quick Facts

- Consume between 20% and 33% of their body weight in food in a single day
- Live up to 35 years in human care
- Enhance the color of their bills by rubbing them against the preen gland beneath their tails



Photo by Joel Miller

# SPOT THE SNOW



Photo by Carolyn Lewis

Snowflakes that fall from the sky are hard to miss, but spotting a snow leopard isn't always easy. The Milwaukee County Zoo now houses two snow leopards, but you might have to look closely to find one. Be sure to check inside the hollowed-out logs where they might be napping or inspect the rocks where they might blend in with the background.

**The newest snow leopard, 2-year-old male Choto,** came to Milwaukee from the Dakota Zoo in North Dakota. Snow leopards are solitary animals, so you will rarely see him in the habitat with female Orya at the same time. They will take turns in the public view. The hope is for the two to breed, but there are several uncertainties. First, breeding season is usually between February and April. Zookeepers watch for signs indicating that Orya is in estrus, such as rolling and rubbing. Then, they need to watch for signs of Choto's interest, as he is a younger male who may not yet be interested in Orya.

Zookeepers describe Choto as sweet and highly food-motivated. When zookeepers interact with him, he typically responds with vocalizations. His favorite foods include frozen whole prey such as quail.

**If you would like to sponsor Choto, the Zoological Society is offering a limited-time promotion that includes a plush-toy snow leopard made of recycled materials! To learn more, visit [zoosociety.org/sponsoranimal](https://zoosociety.org/sponsoranimal) or call 414-258-2333.**



# DEC

1-3,  
6-10,  
7 & 14  
(21 & Over),  
13-23,  
26-31

## BRIGHT SIGHTS AT NIGHT

### Wild Lights

Powered by We Energies

Faces light up with joy and excitement every day inside the Zoo. Guests marvel at majestic animals as they walk through the wooded paths. At night in December, the joy and excitement will switch to the wonderment of an amazing holiday display. The one-mile walk includes several themed zones that will delight people of all ages. Enjoy a winter woodland ride on the North Shore Bank Safari Train or pick your favorite animal to ride on the Penzeys Carousel (weather depending).

### Cheers!

Sponsored by North Shore Bank

On **Dec. 7 and 14**, adults 21 and older can enjoy a special version of Wild Lights. In addition to the magic of the lights around the Zoo, there will be specialty cocktails and food for sale along with entertainment. These two nights are only for adults 21 and older. (Member discount does not apply to Cheers! nights.)



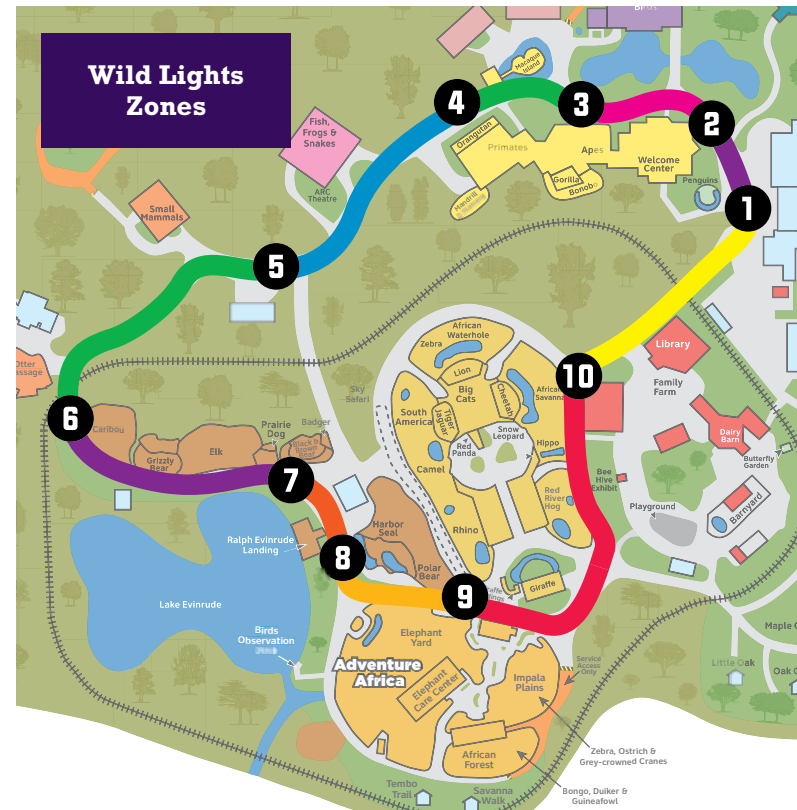
Photos by Garrett Hopkins



### New! Drive-thru Nights

Dec. 3, 10, 17, 18, 19

This year, you can avoid the cold and experience the lights from the comfort of your vehicle. These designated nights are just for vehicles, but there will be chances for you to pull over and buy a snack or beverage. Make sure to roll the windows down to hear the music throughout the park. Admission is per vehicle, not number of passengers.



1. **Polar Point**
2. **Flamingle**  
All the Way  
Sponsored by North Shore Bank
3. **Jungle Bells**  
Sponsored by Mad City Windows & Baths
4. **FantaSEA**  
Sponsored by Festival Foods
5. **aROARa**
6. **Winter Woodland**
7. **ROARchestration**  
Sponsored by Prairie Farms Dairy
8. **ButterFlight**
9. **Starry Safari**  
Sponsored by American Transmission Company
10. **Vibrance**

**DONATE YOUR TIRED LIGHTS** When you start to get your decorations ready for your house and your lights suddenly stop working after they were packed away all summer, bring them to the Zoo and we will take care of them for you. The Zoo works with a specialty company that will recycle the lights. Recycling keeps them out of landfills, plus proceeds will support Wisconsin's Endangered Resources Fund.

\*Do not put your lights in your recycle bins.



**BUY ONLINE TO SAVE  
TIME AND MONEY!**

Prices vary depending on the night you attend.

Zoo Pass and Platypus Circle members receive a 20% discount online with the code **jolly** and member ID. Discount must be applied at time of purchase.

Tickets are on sale now at [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org).

# NOR..WAY!

## “That’s the horse from *Frozen*!”

This phrase has been used countless times at the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm when guests lay their eyes on Nelson, the Zoo’s Norwegian Fjord horse. Nelson arrived in mid-July and has captivated guests of all ages – especially those familiar with the movie “Frozen.” Movies, books and even toys can be a great way for people to connect to animals. They generate interest and, over time, foster empathy.

Nelson is the first Fjord horse to call the Milwaukee County Zoo home. Fjords are one of the oldest breeds, believed to be domesticated over 4,000 years ago. Fjord horses have a dorsal stripe

on their mane and tail. The manes, like Nelson’s, are often cut to show off the stripe. Their bodies are usually the same brown color. Despite their smaller size, Fjord horses are known for their strength, power and agility, and they are bred for these qualities.

According to zookeepers, Nelson is very social and loves people. He turned 15 years old this year and is getting along well with Sicilian donkey, Giuseppe. His large hooves and thick coat make him well equipped to handle the snowiest and coldest months of the year, so you can plan to visit him throughout the winter.

### A Horse Is Not Just a Horse of Course

There are 200 different horse breeds living in the world today. Some will say there are 400 or even 700; however, many experts only recognize about 200. Over the past several thousand years, humans created different breeds by mating different horses. All the breeds belong to one single species: *Equus caballus*.

Each breed has certain characteristics; some are known for their speed, while others are known for their endurance. Only certain breeds would be considered a good option for equestrian competitions while other breeds are considered ideal for working on a farm. Some breeds are challenging to handle or to have around people while others can be helpful in therapies.

### Different body types

There are three basic body types of horses: ponies, light breeds and heavy breeds. A pony is small in size and stocky. Some experts consider a pony any horse that is under 14.2 hands or 58 inches. The light breeds have long, thin legs that are ideal for riding, racing and jumping. The heavy breeds are large and built to pull plows and wagons. Their short but sturdy legs give them better leverage and their muscular backs are ideal for towing heavy objects.

### How to measure a horse

Horses are measured from the ground to the top of the withers, not their head. The withers is the highest point of the back. Traditionally, horses are measured in “hands.” One horse hand is 4 inches. It’s about the width of a person’s fist.



If a horse is 5 feet tall, how many horse hands is that?

How many horse hands are you?



Photo by Carolyn Lewis

Photo by Carolyn Lewis

# CELEBRATION EVENT

On Sept. 21, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee brought together some of its most generous supporters. Members of the Platypus and Serengeti Circles, capital campaign donors, Board members and county leaders gathered to celebrate major milestones and each other. In addition to an entertaining evening to thank all the guests, Zoo Director Amos Morris and Zoological Society Vice President of Development Penny Gutekunst handed out awards to some worthy recipients.

Celebrating  
**YOU & the ZOO**



**Rick Schmidt** was awarded the Emu Egg, one of the Society's highest honors. Rick has been on the Board of Directors since 2009. He co-chaired the Society's largest fundraiser, Zoo Ball, in June helping the Society raise nearly \$630,000. Rick and his company have been major donors for several years and have helped make many habitats in the Zoo a reality.



**GRAEF**, a local engineering, planning and design firm, was honored with the *Loxodonta africana* Award. This honor goes to a company or foundation that supports the Society in more than just dollars. GRAEF has been a part of the Corporate Platypus Circle for 32 years. They have also sponsored Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament since 2016. John McCarthy accepted the award on behalf of the company.



Event Photos by Carolyn Lewis

After the reception and awards, guests were able to check out Happy the hippo in his habitat.

Guests were treated to cocktails, appetizers and light dinner. Plus, they had the opportunity to meet many animals, including a fruit bat, a guinea pig and a rabbit.

If you are interested in being a part of events like this and really making a difference at the Zoo, visit [BeAPlaty.org](http://BeAPlaty.org) or call 414-918-6151.



# ENJOY THE KOI

Some animals at the Zoo are hard to miss, like the giraffes or elephants. Others require a bit of searching, and that includes the koi fish. The koi live in the lower Aviary Pond and are usually visible when guests cross over the water to get into the bird building. When you look over the sides, you will see many different shades of orange and white. Or, if you look further in the water where the flamingos live, you may see flashes of orange.

The koi are in the pond year-round. They may not be as visible in the winter because they sink to the bottom of the pond and remain semi-dormant until the water warms up again. For the most part, the fish are self-sustaining. However, in the warmer months, zookeepers do give them a few cups of food in the morning.

It's estimated that there are more than 53 koi in the pond. Aquatic & Reptile Center curator Shawn Miller says zookeepers try and take a photo when many of them are near the bridge and then count what they see. How many can you count the next time you go to the Zoo? **Be sure to look on both sides of the bridge.**



# LOOKING FOR A **FLUTTER**

If a butterfly flaps its wings will you feel it? This year, the Zoological Society's conservation department was hoping to see and feel a flutter from a very specific butterfly. The Poweshiek skipperling is an endangered prairie butterfly that used to be found in tallgrass prairies across the Midwest and southern Canada. However, their populations have been reduced by 96% and are believed to only be in Manitoba, Michigan and, perhaps, one remaining location in Wisconsin.

This past July, in support of work conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Society team surveyed Scuppernong Prairie in Eagle, hoping to find the Poweshiek

skipperling present. The team spent two days, six hours each day, searching the area. "We performed what is known as a meandering survey," says Toby Seegert, the Society's regional conservation specialist. "When we were meandering, we made sure to travel slowly and stop periodically to scan for butterflies before moving again." All species of butterflies that were spotted were recorded; however, no Poweshieks were found.

Even though this specific insect was not found, the team identified other species, nectar resources and invasive plants within the prairie. The team's work will also determine if that habitat is suitable to reintroduce the species in the future. The Zoological Society is a member of the Poweshiek Skipperling International Partnership (PSIP). This group focuses on conservation planning, headstart breeding programs, habitat restoration and assessment, as well as outreach to raise awareness of this pollinator species.

Scuppernong Prairie  
STATE NATURAL AREA



## The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's



# SPRING ZOO CLASSES



2024



We know you're excited about our classes, and we want to make your child's educational experience rewarding. Please read and familiarize yourself with the important information and policies on the last page.

## STROLLER SAFARI

Age infant–2 with one adult | \$20 Zoo Pass members  
\$30 non-members

Stroll through the Zoo on these guided tours designed specifically for one-on-one learning time for you and your child! Programs feature songs, puppets, stories and more. We recommend wearing close-toed shoes, dressing for the weather and bringing your stroller along. All classes begin in the atrium of the Conservation Education building. Tours take place outside rain or shine.

### RED, BLUE & YELLOW, TOO

Discover the sounds and colors of birds at the Zoo's bird building. From black-and-white penguins to blue-and-yellow starlings, there are so many colors to see! Hear the squawk of the rhinoceros hornbill and learn a finger-play to practice color recognition with your little "chick."

**8:45–9:45 a.m.** Jan. 25, 26, 27, 30  
Feb. 1, 2, 4, 7, 10

**10:15–11:15 a.m.** Jan. 26, 27  
Feb. 1, 4, 7, 10

### TRUNKS, TONGUES & TOES

Take a stroll as we visit some of the largest animals in the Zoo. Sing and rhyme as we learn about the long trunk of the elephant, the purple tongue of the giraffe and the huge toes of the hippo. Can you help your little "calf" find their nose, toes and tongue, too?

**8:45–9:45 a.m.**  
Apr. 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, 14, 17, 20

**10:15–11:15 a.m.**  
Apr. 5, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20

### STRIPES, SPOTS OR SOLIDS?

Let's go exploring to find our feline friends! Visit the big cats (and one that is small) as we have some furry fun. Practice pattern recognition, read a tiger book and learn a lion lullaby you can sing with your little "cub."

**8:45–9:45 a.m.**  
Mar. 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24

**10:15–11:15 a.m.**  
Mar. 15, 16, 20, 21, 23, 24, 27

### DEDITOS, TROMPITAS Y LENGÜITAS

Dé un paseo mientras visitamos algunos de los animales más grandes del zoológico. Cante y rime mientras aprendemos sobre la gran trompa del elefante, la lengua morada de la jirafa y los enormes dedos de los pies del hipopótamo. ¿Puedes ayudar a tu pequeñín a encontrar la nariz, los dedos de los pies y la lengua también?

**8:45–9:45 a.m.**  
Apr. 21

**10:15–11:15 a.m.**  
Apr. 21



## AGE 2

with one adult | \$30 Zoo Pass members  
\$40 non-members

### COWS

Get "moo-ving" to the Zoo to learn about our farm friend, the cow. Play with cow puppets and milk a pretend cow in our classroom barn. Then, make your own cow costume before we head over to the Zoo's dairy barn to visit the cows.

**8:45–9:45 a.m.** Feb. 15, 16, 17, 20, 22, 25, 28  
Mar. 1, 3, 5

**10:15–11:15 a.m.** Feb. 16, 17, 22, 25  
Mar. 3, 5

### ZOO CAROUSEL

One, two, three, four! Join us in our colorful classroom to practice counting. Read a counting book and make a crazy carousel animal you can pretend to ride. Then, "round and round and round we'll go" as we take a ride on the Penzeys Carousel.

**8:45–9:45 a.m.** May 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10,  
11, 14, 16, 17

**10:15–11:15 a.m.** May 3, 4, 5, 8, 10,  
11, 16, 17

## AGE 3

with one adult | \$37 Zoo Pass members  
\$47 non-members

### LIONS ... ROAR!

Leap into our African savanna classroom to learn more about lions! Stalk and pounce like a lion in your lion costume. Then, prowl over to the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country to see the Zoo's pride of lions.

**8:45–10:15 a.m.** Feb. 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 16, 18

**11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** Feb. 2, 4, 8, 10, 18

### ENORMOUS ELEPHANTS

Have tons of fun learning about the Zoo's largest animal, the elephant! Create an elephant costume with enormous ears, a long trunk and a fly-swatting tail. Practice moving like an elephant, and then stomp over to see the Zoo's elephant herd.

**8:45–10:15 a.m.**  
Feb. 29  
Mar. 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 17, 25

**11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**  
Mar. 1, 3, 7, 9, 17

### SEALS & SEA LIONS

Explore our ocean classroom to learn the differences between seals and sea lions. Create your own sea lion costume and hunt for fish in a kelp forest. Splash into the Zoo to learn how zookeepers work with the seals, and then watch them in action!

**8:45–10:15 a.m.**  
Apr. 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, 16, 18

**11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**  
Apr. 5, 6, 7, 13, 18

"This is the best day ever!"  
– Class Participant



## AGES 4 & 5

child only or with one adult

\$45 Zoo Pass members  
\$55 non-members

Sign up your child for a **child-only** class or attend with your child in a **with adult** class.

### ANIMAL DETECTIVES

Mammal, bird, fish, reptile or amphibian? Be a detective and uncover the identity of our mystery animal. Use a magnifying glass to examine evidence like fur, feathers and scales up close. Create an animal decoder and follow clues as we sneak through the Zoo. Let's crack the case!

#### Child Only

**9:15-11:30 a.m.**

Feb. 9, 10, 11

**1-3:15 p.m.**

Feb. 9, 10, 11

#### With Adult

**9:15-11:30 a.m.**

Jan. 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 27, 28, 31

Feb. 4

**1-3:15 p.m.**

Jan. 19, 20, 21, 27, 28

Feb. 4

### JUNIOR VET

Enter our animal-hospital classroom with your favorite stuffed animal from home to practice the jobs of a veterinarian and create your own vet kit. Visit the Zoo's Animal Health Center to peek into a real exam room and learn how animals are cared for at the Zoo.

#### Child Only

**9:15-11:30 a.m.**

Mar. 15, 16, 17

#### With Adult

**9:15-11:30 a.m.**

Feb. 22, 23, 24, 25, 27

Mar. 3, 9, 10, 28

**1-3:15 p.m.**

Mar. 15, 16, 17

**1-3:15 p.m.**

Feb. 23, 24, 25

Mar. 3, 9, 10

### WHO'S AROUND THE RIVERBEND?

Paddle down our river classroom to learn about animals that live at the water's edge. Gather sticks like a beaver, catch fish like a bear and slide on your belly like an otter! Then, head into the Zoo to see the animals who call the river home.

#### Child Only

**9:15-11:30 a.m.**

May 3, 4, 5

**1-3:15 p.m.**

May 3, 4, 5

#### With Adult

**9:15-11:30 a.m.**

Apr. 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 27

May 11

**1-3:15 p.m.**

Apr. 12, 13, 14, 20, 27

May 11



Photo by Bob Wickland

## AGES 6 & 7 AND 8 & 9

child only

\$45 Zoo Pass members  
\$55 non-members

### WILD BY DESIGN

Calling all inventors! Your imagination is needed! Help us investigate what animals inspired incredible inventions like bullet trains and bike reflectors. Explore the Zoo to find inspiration and complete your own animal-inspired invention challenge!

#### Ages 6 & 7

**9:15-11:45 a.m.**

Jan. 27, 28

Feb. 10, 11

**1-3:30 p.m.**

Jan. 27, 28

#### Ages 8 & 9

**9:15-11:45 a.m.**

Feb. 18

**1-3:30 p.m.**

Feb. 10, 11

### MYTH-BUSTERS!

Dragons, unicorns and mermaids... imaginary creatures or wonders of the animal world? Separate fact from fiction with a mystery tour through the Zoo. Discover which animals may have inspired legends and design a fantastic creature of your own to take home!

#### Ages 6 & 7

**9:15-11:45 a.m.**

Feb. 25

Mar. 9, 10, 16

**1-3:30 p.m.**

Mar. 9, 16

#### Ages 8 & 9

**9:15-11:45 a.m.**

Apr. 7

**1-3:30 p.m.**

Feb. 25

Mar. 10

### ZOOKEEPER: SMALL MAMMALS

Ever wonder how you would feed a vampire bat or weigh a lemur? What about taking care of a baby porcupine? Trek to the Small Mammals Building and discover how zookeepers care for some of the tiniest, furriest and cutest animals in the Zoo!

#### Ages 6 & 7

**9:15-11:45 a.m.**

Apr. 27

May 4, 5, 11

**1-3:30 p.m.**

Apr. 27

May 11

#### Ages 8 & 9

**1-3:30 p.m.**

May 4, 5

## AGES 6-10

child only

\$100 Zoo Pass members  
\$120 non-members

### Attention Homelearners!

#### JOIN OWLS: OBSERVANT WILD LEARNER SQUAD!

Become a wild learner in our once-a-week, for 4-week series. Classes will develop curiosity, create empathy and encourage healthy social skills. With the same students each week, we'll build community as we explore and learn together.

### STINKY SLIMY SCALY

Explore animals that redefine the extreme: from blood-squirting defenders to poop-eating survivalists. Embrace the stinky, the slimy and the squirm-inducing as you learn about the incredible adaptations that allow these animals to thrive in their environments. **Choose the AM or PM session.**

**10-11:30 a.m.**

Feb. 7, 14, 21 AND 28

**1-2:30 p.m.**

Feb. 7, 14, 21 AND 28



## SPRING BREAK CLASSES

### AGES 6 & 7 AND 8 & 9

child only | \$150 Member  
\$180 non-members

#### STEAM STAYCATION CAMP

Join us during Spring Break for two fun-filled days where we will learn, create and imagine around the Zoo! Campers will use art and science to gain a deeper understanding of their favorite animals at the Zoo.

**9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Mar. 25 AND 26  
or  
Mar. 28 AND 29

### AGES 10-12

child only | \$75 Member  
\$90 non-members

#### GETTING DRAMATIC FOR WILDLIFE: CONSERVATION ACTORS IN TRAINING

Do you love animals? Are you a storyteller? If you answered yes to any of these, join us for a day off school to become a conservation actor in training! Learn the basics of becoming an actor while exploring ways to tell others about the importance of wildlife and conservation.

**9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Mar. 26 or 28

## AGE 10-14

child only | \$45 Zoo Pass Members  
\$55 non-members

#### ANATOMY: SCIENTIFIC ART

Unleash your inner artist! Take a look at the intersection of art and science, and learn how artists like Maria Sibylla Merian or Leonardo da Vinci were involved in scientific study. Then, study anatomical structure to design and make your own artistic creation by observing Zoo animals and habitats!

**9:15-11:45 a.m.**      **1-3:30 p.m.**

Feb. 24

Feb. 24

#### CLIMATE CHANGE: A REAL ICEBREAKER!

Dive deep into the science behind climate change! We'll examine the reasons, look at factors that influence climate, learn about the animals and ecosystems most affected and test solutions that will help our planet! Join us in this active and experiment-based class to build a better future for the Earth!

**9:15-11:45 a.m.**      **1-3:30 p.m.**

Apr. 14

Apr. 14

## FAMILY CLASS

all ages | \$20 Zoo Pass members  
\$30 non-members

While we welcome family members of all ages, the content of this class is intended for children ages 3-14. Minimum of two registrants required and must include one adult (18 years or older) and one child. Children under the age of 1 are free to attend and do not need to be registered.

#### FAMILY ZOOMAZING RACE

Like the globe-trotters on the TV show, "Amazing Race," you can travel "around the world" in this family class! Take off on a scavenger hunt through the Zoo to find some of its "oddest" animals. Discover how animals use their senses to survive as you test your own senses through family challenges and roadblocks. Don't delay... the challenges await you!

**9:15-11:30 a.m.**

Jan. 20, 21  
Feb. 17

**1-3:15 p.m.**

Jan. 20, 21  
Feb. 17

#### WHO LAID THAT EGG?

Piranha, penguin, python and platypus. What do these animals have in common? They all start out as eggs! Piece together clues to discover some of the world's strangest egg-laying, or oviparous, animals. Egg-splore the Zoo, create some egg-cellent crafts, and join in on some egg-citing activities to learn how animals protect and care for their eggs!

**9:15-11:30 a.m.**

Mar. 10, 23, 24

**1-3:15 p.m.**

Mar. 10, 23, 24

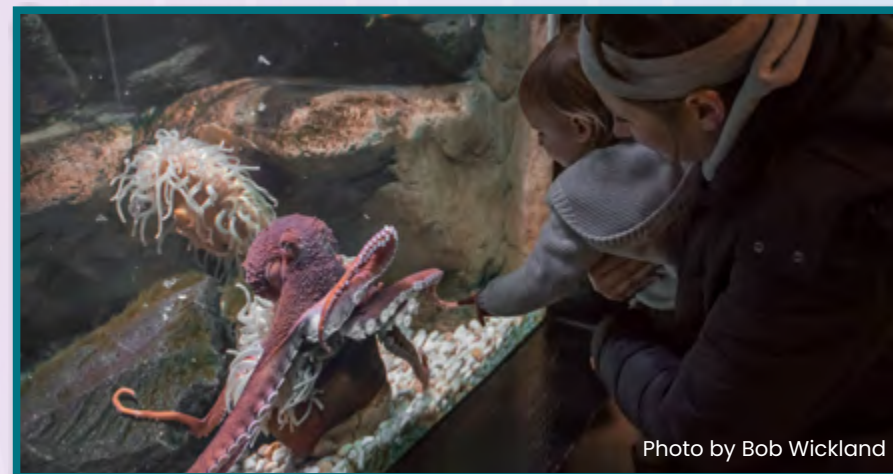


Photo by Bob Wickland

**NEW!**

Try out a 1-hour Family Class as part of your Zoo Day!

all ages | \$15 Zoo Pass members  
\$25 non-members

#### THE STORY OF PAT THE CAT

How do certain animals end up in zoos? Why do genetics matter in conservation? How can people in Milwaukee support global conservation and reduce conflict between humans and wildlife? Learn about Pat, a jaguar from Belize, and how his story can help us answer these questions.

**9:15-10:15 a.m.**

Apr. 21

**10:45-11:45 a.m.**

Mar. 27  
Apr. 21

**1-2 p.m.**

Mar. 27  
Apr. 21

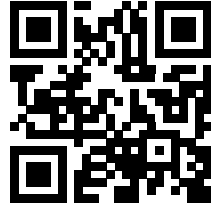
**2:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

Apr. 21

## Register Online at [Zoosociety.org/spring](https://zoosociety.org/spring)

Member online registration begins November 8 at 9 a.m.  
Non-member registration begins November 15 at 9 a.m.

Check our FAQ by  
scanning the QR Code!



### PLEASE READ!

#### GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

- Participants must meet the specified age requirement for each class, and unregistered children, including siblings, are not permitted to attend. Age exceptions are only made for children with special needs (please contact Education before registering).
- If your child is attending a child-only class, an adult (18 years or older) must check the child in and provide the following information: emergency phone number, allergies/medications and names of adults authorized for pickup.
- Only authorized adults with valid identification may pick up children.
- In addition, please do not meet or follow your child's group into the Zoo, as this is a distraction to the educational experience.

#### ANTICIPATE ENTRANCE GATE LINES

The time required to enter the Zoo can vary depending on weather, road construction, school groups and events. Please plan to arrive early. You may check your confirmation email or call the Conservation Education Department in advance of your registered education program for the most up-to-date entry information. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

#### CANCELLATIONS & REIMBURSEMENT

**You Cancel** – If you're unable to attend class, call at least 3 days before the class date and we will try to reschedule your child for another available date this season. We do not issue refunds; however, you can offer your child's class to a friend of the same age.

**We Cancel** – The Conservation Education Department reserves the right to cancel classes. We will attempt to reschedule, accommodate your child in another class, or process a reimbursement. For weather-related cancellations, refer to local news stations or call **414-258-5058**.



A Zoological Society and  
Milwaukee County Zoo partnership

## LEAVE THE LEAVES

Some of the most popular conservation tips we give to our Zoo Pass members are the ones that require you to do very little work. That includes our Leave the Leaves initiative which encourages people to think twice about raking up the leaves in their yard. Basically, it is about helping the circle of life by not doing anything.

#### Why should you not rake your leaves?

- Leaves provide nutrients to the soil; it's a natural process for leaves to decompose each year.
- Insects, including moths and butterflies, overwinter in leaf piles.

#### Why you may need to rake at least a little bit:

**Problem:** Too many leaves can kill off grass.

**Solution:** You can mulch them up with your lawnmower or rake the leaves into a flower bed.

**Problem:** Too many leaves in the waterways can reduce the oxygen levels and lead to fish dying in large numbers.

**Solution:** Put them in your flower bed or rake up about half the yard and send them off with your municipality's leaf collection, if applicable.

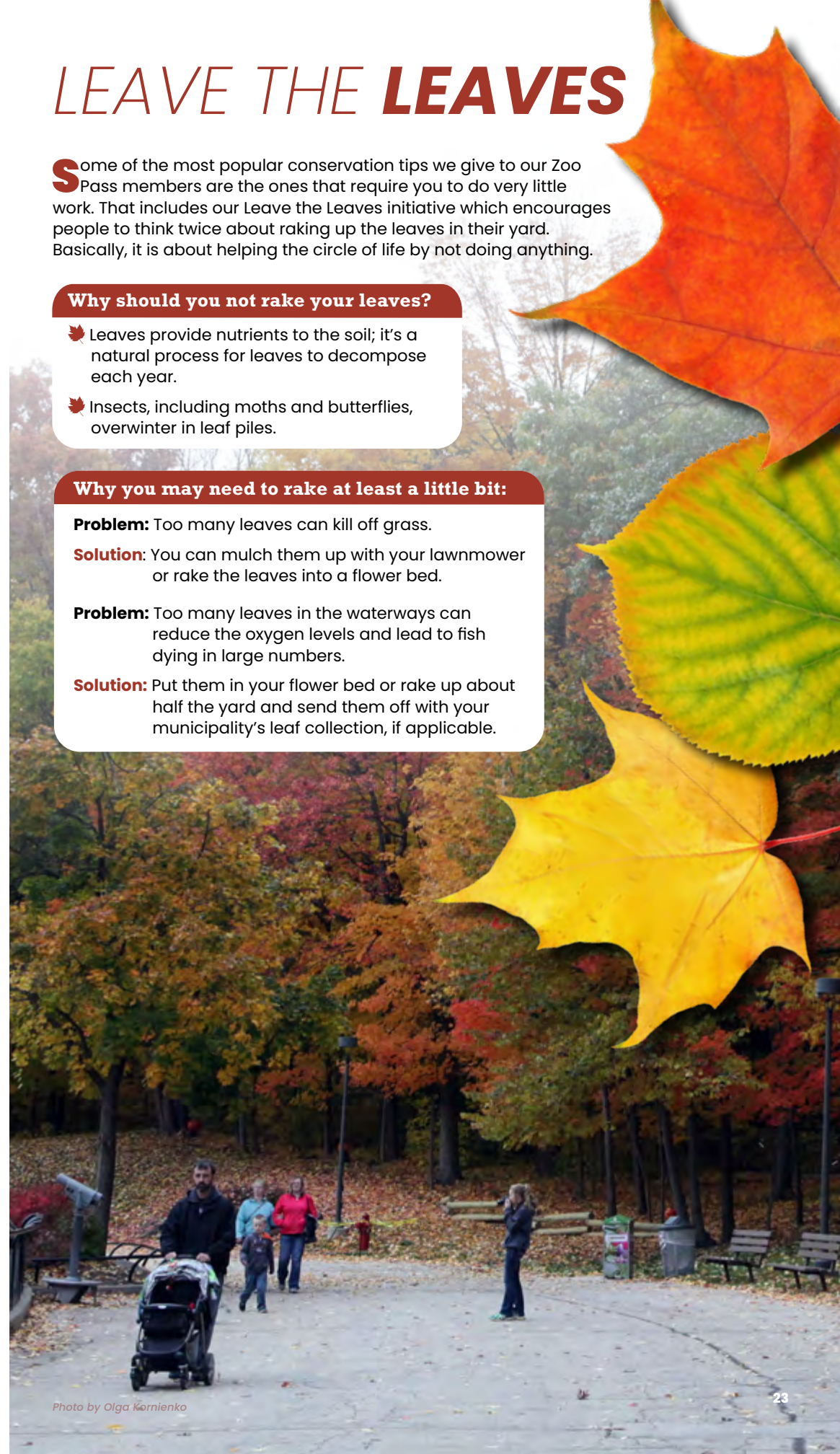


Photo by Olga Kornienko

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**DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY**

Koi fish and goldfish are distant cousins.

**Page 13.**

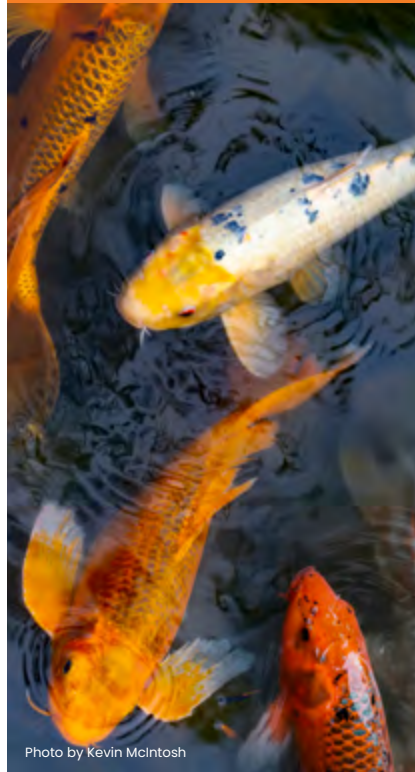


Photo by Kevin McIntosh

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

*Enjoy holiday lights while walking, driving or as an adult night out.  
Details on page 8.*



Photo by Garrett Hopkins

#### **Nov. 4**

Family Free Day, sponsored by Tri City National Bank & FOX6\*

#### **Nov. 4**

Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo (pre-register)

#### **Nov. 8**

Zoo Pass member registration for Spring Zoo Classes begins

#### **Nov. 23**

Thanksgiving Day, Zoo closed.

#### **Dec. 1-31;**

**closed Dec. 4, 5, 11, 12, 24, 25**

Wild Lights, powered by We Energies (pre-register for a member discount)

**\*Check [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org) for walking or drive-thru dates.**

#### **Dec. 7 & 14**

Cheers!, sponsored by North Shore Bank - 21+ night at Wild Lights

#### **Dec. 1-31**

Fantastic Forest, sponsored by Hawks Landscape

#### **Dec. 2**

Family Free Day, sponsored by Tri City National Bank & FOX6\*

#### **Dec. 25**

Christmas Day, Zoo closed.

#### **Dec. 26-30**

Frosty Free Week, sponsored by Generac\*

#### **Jan. 1**

New Year's Day, Zoo closed.

#### **Jan. 6**

Family Free Day, sponsored by Tri City National Bank & FOX6\*

#### **Jan. 21**

Samson Stomp and Romp, sponsored by Prairie Farms Dairy (pre-register)

*\*Zoo Pass members get free regular Zoo admission with their Zoo Pass. Those with Zoo Pass Plus also get free parking for one vehicle per membership per day. Platypus Circle members receive free admission and parking with their card.*

## CONNECT WITH US!

 [facebook.com/ZooPass](https://www.facebook.com/ZooPass)

 [twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://twitter.com/ZooSocietyMKE)

 [instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://www.instagram.com/ZooSocietyMKE)

 [youtube.com/ZooSocietyMKE](https://www.youtube.com/ZooSocietyMKE)



The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is proud to bear Charity Navigator's highest rating of four stars.

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2022

Candid.

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is recognized for our transparency with GuideStar's Gold Seal.