

NEWS RELEASE



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PARTY WITH THE ANIMALS AT THE VIRGINIA ZOO

Norfolk, Va. – The Virginia Zoo will host its annual Party for the Planet 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 23.

Party for the Planet will bring out visitors' wild side as we celebrate Earth Day and animal enrichment. Visitors will learn about conservation steps they can take to protect habitat locally and worldwide. They will also see how zookeepers use enrichment to encourage our animals' natural behavior, keeping them healthy and happy, and have opportunities to play with enrichment items we give animals ranging from otters to elephants.

"Party for the Planet is a fun way for people of all ages to learn how they can help with animal conservation and how we at the Virginia Zoo provide habitats and enrichment items to keep animals engaged and encourage their natural behavior," said Greg Bockheim, the Virginia Zoo's executive director.

Activities and exhibits will include educational talks at select animal habitats; informational presentations, animal enrichment activities and crafts at the event pavilion; and Balinese music performances at the entrance to Asia – Trail of the Tiger by Gamelan Raga Kusuma, a community ensemble from Richmond, Va.

Party for the Planet event activities are included with general admission.

As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facility, the Virginia Zoo exhibits more than 400 animals on 53 beautifully landscaped acres. For more than a century, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to education and conservation, and offered a fun-filled day for visitors of any age. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located at 3500 Granby Street in Norfolk. Daily admission prices are \$11.00 for adults, \$10.00 for seniors (age 62 and over), and \$9.00 for children ages 2-11. Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.

PARTY WITH THE ANIMALS



Children enjoying crafts during the 2010 Party for the Planet at the Virginia Zoo (Virginia Zoo photo by David Totten).

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A lion at the Virginia Zoo enjoys a frozen meat food puzzle as part of animal enrichment demonstrations during the 2010 Party for the Planet at the Virginia Zoo (Virginia Zoo photo by David Totten).

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