

NEWS RELEASE



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FREE TIDE OPENING WEEKEND TRAIN RIDES

NORFOLK, Va. – During the Light Rail, the “Tide,” Opening Weekend, visitors who show their Tide Opening Weekend ticket at the Virginia Zoo can ride the Zoo train for free!

“Conservation is a core mission of the Virginia Zoo,” said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo’s executive director. “We encourage everyone to commute greener by taking public transportation.”

Visitors who show their Tide Opening Weekend ticket will receive a free Zoo train token with paid or member admission at the Zoo ticket booth. The three-quarter mile long journey includes live narration from the train engineer about the Zoo and its collection of plants and animals.

The Zoo train is a one-third scale model of a C.P. Huntington steam engine. The train runs daily during the summer season, barring inclement weather, and can accommodate more than 80 passengers – adults and children. The train is ADA compliant and can accommodate wheelchairs.

Note that visitors will receive one token per Tide Opening Weekend ticket. The offer is valid only during Tide Opening Weekend, August 19 - August 21, and cannot be combined with any other offer or discount. The offer is valid during normal business hours only and cannot be used for special events or education programs. The train runs daily when temperatures are 50 degrees Fahrenheit or above. The train is closed during inclement weather.

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A full Norfolk Southern Express train at the Virginia Zoo gives visitors a guided tour during area schools' spring break Friday, April 22 (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson).

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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.