



Contacts:

Kris Sherman: 253-404-3800; 253-226-6718 or kris.sherman@pdza.org

Whitney DalBalcon: 253-404-3637 or whitney.dalbalcon@pdza.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 13, 2015

SAY 'BOO' AT THE ZOO FOR A FABULOUS FALL FESTIVAL WORTHY OF A JACK-O-LANTERN GRIN

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium celebrates fall with two days of treats for animals and visitors, Oct. 17-18; those who come in costume receive a \$2 discount off general admission

TACOMA, Wash. – Ever play a round of Ghoulish Golf? How about a Weird and Wonderful game in which players try to differentiate between arachnids and insects? Or make Pipe Cleaner Creepers?



All that and more is in store at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium this weekend during Zoo Boo, the annual fall festival in which the grounds are decked out with intricately carved pumpkins and elaborate decorations.

Visitors can come in costume to receive \$2 off general admission.

There will be trick or treating around the zoo.

AND, the animals receive special fall-themed enrichments that are interesting and stimulating for them. Plus, the interaction is a lot of fun for visitors to watch.

The zoo is open from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17 and 18, for Zoo Boo. All activities are free with zoo admission or membership.

There also will be a Scarecrow Alley competition, with visitors voting on their favorite decorated scarecrows, submitted by members of the public.

Here's a schedule of some of the activities for animals:

11 a.m. Saturday: Sharks receive spooky frozen gel treats.

11 a.m. Sunday: Watch a diver carve a pumpkin underwater among the sharks.

11:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday: Do polar bears like pumpkins? Find out as they get treats made of pumpkins and ice.

12:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: Chomp. Chew. Bat with a paw. See what tigers will do with pumpkin treats and enrichments.

1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: Stomp. Smash. Crunch. Watch elephants make short work of their pumpkins.

2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday: See red wolves devour pumpkin treats.

And about those activities for people:

- **Ghoulish Golf:** Try for a hole-in-one while maneuvering through a field of ghoulish pumpkins.
- **Jeepers Creepers:** Test skills at identifying "scary" animal biofacts.
- **Weird and Wonderful:** Discover differences between insects and arachnids.
- **Pipe Cleaner Creepers:** Create snakes, spiders, or chameleons out of pipe cleaners.
- **Bat Scavenger Hunt:** Hunt for all the hidden bats in the lower North Pacific Aquarium.
- **Close Encounters:** Meet animals up close at the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater stage at 1:30 pm.

Zoo Boo is presented by BECU.

For more information, go to www.pdza.org.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, practices and promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities. The zoo, a division of Metro Parks Tacoma, is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA).