



Lincoln Children's

ZOOtracks



ZOOBILEE

OVER 8,000 CELEBRATE!

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ADVENTURES IN BELIZE

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FALL ZOO CAMPS

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Lincoln Children's Zoo
1222 South 27th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
402.475.6741

LincolnZoo.org

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10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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The Lincoln Children's Zoo is
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of Nebraska

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Learn more at:
CommunityServicesFund.org.

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**For information on Planned Giving and Endowments,
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Mission: To enrich lives through firsthand interaction with living things.

NEW! TORTOISE TREK



THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



ZOOBILEE OVER 8,000 CELEBRATE!

BY CASSANDRA DRISKELL

On August 8, the Zoo celebrated 50 years in the Lincoln community with Zoobilee, a free family event at the Pinnacle Bank Arena. Over 8,300 people attended and made lifelong memories with their family members through firsthand interaction of singing, laughing, learning and bonding. It was with great thanks to the community that this event was made possible in the first place. Without the support of the community, Lincoln Children's Zoo could not have been built, continued to grow or served such a vital conservation role in the research and preservation of endangered species.

Despite Zoobilee having over 8,300 attendees, the event felt personal and intimate to every guest. Larry the Cable Guy wandered through the crowd with a microphone, allowing audience members a fun Q&A session. At one point he gathered ten kids from the audience to join him on stage and asked the kids to tell their very best joke. Several kids were nervous in front of the large crowd, resulting in jokes that sounded something like: "Knock knock. Who's there? Banana. Banana who? Strawberry."



Mya, an 8-year-old patient at Madonna Rehabilitation Center, tried moving closer to the stage in her wheelchair so she could see and hear Larry better. She never thought she and her mother would be asked to go backstage for a special meet and greet with the comedian himself. It was an incredible moment for everyone involved. Larry and his charitable organization, the Git-R-Done Foundation, donated money to develop the Alexis Verzal Children's Rehabilitation Hospital at Madonna in 2009, the hospital Mya has been making her recovery in after she suffered traumatic brain injury during a car crash. Her mother and grandmother thanked Larry for making Mya's recovery possible. Larry hugged Mya and her mom, telling Mya confidently that she was in good hands.

Back on stage, Larry and CEO & President, John Chapo, handled Zoo animals for the crowd to see. Most in the crowd had never seen these animals out of their exhibits and loved asking questions while viewing the animals up



ZOOBILEE OVER 8,000 CELEBRATE!

close. Crowd favorites included a baby skunk, baby alligator, Tammar wallaby, porcupine, Humboldt penguin, tarantula and others. The crowd especially loved it when Chapo placed the tarantula on Larry's face!

Children in the crowd were able to ask questions directly to the zookeeper and then go upstairs to Critter Outpost, a station set up for visitors to touch the animals and ask questions about them. Children loved the Critter Outpost and begged their parents to stay just another minute to pet the hedgehog, short-tailed opossum, chinchilla, leopard gecko and more.

"That's what our Zoo is all about," said Chapo. "Our goal is for every child to have firsthand interaction with nature and animals. We love it when children leave our Zoo saying, 'when I grow up I want to be a zookeeper.'"

When Recess Monkeys took the stage, they asked all the children to





come to the middle of the arena, which the band promptly named the VIP dance floor. "Dance, dance, dance!" they said. As soon as the music started, the kids couldn't keep their feet still! Recess Monkey, a band comprised of three teachers, had never played in Nebraska, but found themselves swarmed with a crowd of new fans during autograph signings after the show.

The Okee Dokee Brothers took the stage next and the kids rushed to the stage, singing along to every single word. One small fan had been waiting "his whole life" to see the Okee Dokee Brothers. He sprinted to hug the band during autograph signings, "They're my favorite everything!" he said.

Later, a gasp escaped the crowd as a bird keeper from the Birds of Prey performance brought out a bald eagle named Patriot. Patriot flapped his enormous wings in the air and the audience applauded as they learned that it was thanks to regular people like them that the bald eagle is no longer on the endangered species list. The Birds of Prey representative also took the time to show off a beautiful American barn owl named Minerva. Audience members were apt students as they learned about the owl.

"That bird was absolutely beautiful," one woman said after the show. "It was amazing to see the owl and bald eagle so closely. They are incredible birds!"

No matter if a child was seeing his very favorite band, a family was meeting a man who had made their daughter's recovery possible or if people were learning how to make a difference by helping an endangered species, Zoobilee was an incredible day for all who attended. Lincoln Children's Zoo could not celebrate 50 wonderful years without the constant and overwhelming support of the community and those who love the Zoo and the animals. It has been the Zoo's mission since opening day in 1965 to provide firsthand interaction with nature and animals for every guest who visits.





FASCINATING FACTS

- LONGEST SPECIES OF PARROT IN THE WORLD
- ABLE TO BREAK A BROOMSTICK
IN HALF WITH BEAK
- CAN MIMIC HUMAN SPEECH
POLLY WANT A CRACKER?!

hello
my name is

Bernie
(the hyacinth macaw)



COLLECTIBLE POSTER



NORTH POLE EXPRESS

Lincoln Children's ZOO

Holiday Train Ride • Hot Chocolate • Santa • Cookie Decorating • & More!

December
5, 6, 12 & 13

Tickets at LincolnZoo.org

Tickets on sale Nov. 5 at LincolnZoo.org. Tickets may sell out. Advanced ticket purchase is suggested.

ZOO CALENDAR

WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE ZOO

SEPT

WED 9
& WED 16

MEMBER EXTRA HOURS

9 a.m. - 7 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Lincoln Children's Zoo members can take advantage of great perks including discounted train rides, free cookies from Runza, giveaways for children and additional Animal Encounter shows! Plus, members get exclusive extra hours from 9 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. Zoo open to non-members 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



First National Bank

OCT

WED 7

SENSORY SAFARI

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo | Register at LincolnZoo.org

Visually and sensory impaired guests will have the opportunity to touch, feel, hear and smell at interpretative stations located throughout the Zoo. Sensory Safari is possible through a partnership with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Mary F. Tous Charitable Foundation.



FRI 9

ZOO CAMP: CRITTER KEEPERS (LPS ELEMENTARY NOT IN SESSION)

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 5-7 | Members: \$45, Non-Members: \$60 | Register at LincolnZoo.org

FRI 9

ZOO CAMP: JR. ZOOKEEPER (LPS ELEMENTARY NOT IN SESSION)

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 8-10 | Members: \$45, Non-Members: \$60 | Register at LincolnZoo.org

THURS 15

& FRI 16

ZOO CAMP: WILDERNESS EXPLORERS (LPS NOT IN SESSION)

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 5-7 | Members: \$60, Non-Members: \$75 | Register at LincolnZoo.org

ZOO CAMP: JR. ZOO VET (LPS NOT IN SESSION)

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Ages 8-10 | Members: \$60, Non-Members: \$75 | Register at LincolnZoo.org

SUN 18

LAST DAY OPEN FOR 2015 ZOO SEASON

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

MON 26 TO

FRI 30

BOO AT THE ZOO

5:30 - 8:00 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo | Tickets available online or at the Zoo

Lincoln's biggest trick-or-treat party is at the Zoo. The entire family will love stopping at over 35 trick-or-treat booths to get candy, coupons and more! Admission or membership applies, plus \$3.50 trick-or-treat bag for all trick-or-treaters.



DEC

TUES 1 TO

WED 23

NEW! HOLIDAY SHOPPING HOURS

10 a.m. - 5 p.m. | Treetop Toys Gift Shop at Lincoln Children's Zoo

This holiday season, surprise the ones you love with a membership to Lincoln Children's Zoo! Treetop Toys will be open for holiday shopping and membership purchases in December. Pick up a cute plush, fun apparel or choose from a large selection of animal-themed toys. Your holiday gift purchases help to care for the Zoo's animals during the winter months.

NORTH POLE EXPRESS

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo | Tickets at LincolnZoo.org

Board the Zoo's train for a journey to the North Pole. Once inside the Zoo, your winter wonderland experience includes hot chocolate, cookie decorating and a visit to Santa's workshop to see the big man himself. Tickets include admission, a train ride and all activities. Tickets on sale November 5.

SAT 5, SUN 6,
SAT 12 & SUN 13



BY CASSANDRA DRISKELL

Lincoln Children's Zoo's impact and ability to inspire others through firsthand learning extends far beyond Lincoln, Neb. A dozen local youth spent 12 life-changing days in Belize taking part in hands-on conservation work and exploring the amazing culture and wildlife of the country.

The program, Adventures by Lincoln Children's Zoo, was created in 2012 to give teenagers an opportunity to explore the world in unforgettable ways and inspire them to make a difference.

Among the group that traveled to Belize was 20-year-old Nathan Garrison, 17-year-old Amelia Baker and 16-year-old Olivia Rine. Here is their experience through their own words.

From Zoo Crew to Belize – Nathan's Story

Nathan has been volunteering and working for the Zoo for over nine years and is now studying fisheries and wildlife with an option in zoo animal care at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Adventure Begins

The first stop of the Belize Adventure trip was in San Ignacio, a town located on the edge of the rainforest. After a very bumpy three-hour bus ride down a minimum maintenance road, we climbed out of the bus to explore some Mayan ruins. Around the corner was a beautiful, towering pyramid called the Caracol ruins. The pyramid stood taller than the jungle trees and we were in awe at the miles and miles of rainforest—we could see all the way to Guatemala!

In the US, we have landmarks that show our history, but we don't have Mayan ruins. That

showed me just how advanced humans really were. When I rounded the corner to that pyramid, it was the most amazing sight ever.

During the rest of our stay in San Ignacio, we made our own chocolate from cacao beans, explored caves, went horseback riding through the rainforest, and zip lined through jungle trees.

After three days in San Ignacio, we moved to the Tropical Education Center next to the Belize Zoo. The Tropical Education Center is an educational facility for study abroad students to research Belize wildlife. One of those animals is the tapir, the largest mammal in Central America. We had the privilege of taking a class from Celso, the lead tapir expert in Belize, before being led on a tapir tracking expedition.

It used to be that I wanted to be a zookeeper, but now I just want to work in a zoo and



make a difference. I love animals; working with them is my passion. I always knew that, but working with Lincoln Children's Zoo for nine years and having the opportunity to go on amazing adventures to Belize and Costa Rica have confirmed it.

Amazing Opportunities – Amelia and Olivia's Story

Amelia and Olivia are students at Zoo School, Lincoln Public Schools Science Focus program. They have a passion for conservation, animals and science and want to pursue careers in animal science.

The Adventure Continues

Once the jungle was dark, we took a nocturnal hike, or night tour, of the Belize Zoo by the head cat keeper and watched the zoo's jaguar show his skills by doing somersaults, jumps and more. They have night hikes to stimulate the nocturnal animals when they are awake.

"That was the first time I've ever seen my favorite animal, the ocelot, awake in a zoo before," said Amelia.

During the rest of our time at the Tropical Education Center we studied and observed the native Belize animals at the zoo. We had fun cave tubing—a combination of hiking and tubing in the rivers through the large caves of Belize. That experience really defined Belize for us. We were so in touch with the natural landscape.

Next, we traveled through Belize City to reach the coast. There, after an hour boat ride, we reached the island of St. George's Caye. The last three days were spent snorkeling, learning about mangroves, conch shells and the different types of sea grass. We used a transect to survey and gather information about the conch shells in a particular area of the ocean for the conservationists of St. George's Caye.

Belize is home to the world's second largest coral reef, so the snorkeling was incredible and we were able to see a barracuda, jellyfish, angelfish, a manatee and a dolphin. We swam past the coral reef to where the ocean floor drops 40–50 feet at what is called the drop off. There we saw a sea turtle and six or seven spotted eagle rays (manta rays).

"One thing that Belize showed me is that international research and conservation are very possible," Olivia said. "The Adventures program has given me an opportunity I would have never had before. The Zoo School is a great environment, but the Zoo has allowed the school to be great."

"I know what I want to do with my life and I want to make a difference," Amelia said. "The adventures program at the Zoo has created a path that I may have never known existed."



**FRIDAY
OCT 10**

LPS ELEM. NOT IN SESSION

CRITTER KEEPERS

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. | AGES 5-7

Learn the basics of caring for animals. Find out how to feed and care for many of the Zoo's animals.

MEMBERS: \$45 | NON-MEMBERS: \$60

JR. ZOOKEEPER

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. | AGES 8-10

Animals come from all over the world. Get a behind-the-scenes look at the red panda from China, the Australian frilled lizard, and the Southern banded armadillo from South America.

MEMBERS: \$45 | NON-MEMBERS: \$60



**THURS.
OCT 15**

**FRIDAY
OCT 16**

LPS NOT IN SESSION

WILDERNESS EXPLORERS

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. | AGES 5-7

Do you have what it takes to survive in the wilderness? Campers will become explorers while learning to be a friend to all, be it beast or fish or plant or ant! Make survival crafts, build shelters and learn about the wild Zoo animals. The wilderness must be explored!

MEMBERS: \$60 | NON-MEMBERS: \$75

JR. ZOO VET

8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. | AGES 8-10

Help take care of the Zoo's animals! Jr. Zoo Vets explore basic vet techniques from making healthy diets to performing health checks.

MEMBERS: \$60 | NON-MEMBERS: \$75

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR ZOO TODAY!

We rely on your generosity to fund programs that help save our endangered animals, give children in need free admission and provide outreach opportunities for area senior citizens and youth. Lincoln Children's Zoo receives no tax dollars and depends on individuals and organizations for support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND GIFT.

John Chgo

To donate visit LincolnZoo.org or call 402.475.6741 ext. 131.

BOO AT THE ZOO

A LETTER FROM THE WIZARD

Hello all you trick-or-treaters out there!

It's me, the Wizard! Halloween is my favorite time of the year because it's Boo at the Zoo. I love seeing all of the goblins and ghosts and princesses and pirates. As I get ready for this year's Boo at the Zoo, I think about everything I love about Halloween. Here, straight from the home office in Boohoo, Nebraska, are my top 10 reasons why I love Halloween!

I'll see you at Boo at the Zoo October 26-30, sponsored by our friends at Bryan Health for a merry, not scary good time!

Hauntingly yours,
The Wizard



10 REASONS WHY THE WIZARD LOVES HALLOWEEN!

10. CARVING PUMPKINS—THIS IS THE ONE TIME OF YEAR MOM LETS YOU PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD (AND DON'T FORGET THAT TOASTED PUMPKIN SEEDS ARE YUMMY).
9. MONSTER MASH PLAYS ON REPEAT ON MY IPOD.
8. CANDY, CANDY AND MORE CANDY!
7. BATS AND CATS AND SPIDERS AND SNAKES ARE EVERYWHERE!
6. MY BUBBLING CAULDRON OF GREEN SLIMY WIZARD STEW.
5. CANDY, CANDY AND MORE CANDY (WAIT, DID I SAY THAT ALREADY?).
4. IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN, CHARLIE BROWN!
3. TWO WORDS—CANDY CORN.
2. I CAN WALK AROUND TOWN IN A POINTY HAT, ROBE AND A MAGIC WAND WITHOUT BEING STARED AT.
1. I GET TO SEE ALL OF YOU AT BOO AT THE ZOO!

Lincoln Children's ZOO

BOO AT THE ZOO



OVER 35 TRICK-OR-TREAT BOOTHS

OCTOBER 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30 | 5:30 - 8:00 P.M.

SAVE TIME! PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE ONLINE OR AT THE ZOO.
RAISING CANES CHICKEN FINGER MEAL TICKETS FOR PURCHASE ONLINE OR WITH CASH DURING EVENT.
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ZOO.