

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Date: August 4, 2003

Kids Day at Washington Park Zoo

Michigan City, IN (August 4, 2003) – Bring the kids to Washington Park Zoo on August 9th for an afternoon of fun and games!

“We have scheduled pony rides, and an egg hunt, face painting and games,” said Lane Theriac, director of the Washington Park Zoo, “as well as educational talks, feeding demonstrations, and opportunities to meet and speak with our zookeepers about the animals for which they care. Kids Day activities will be held from 11 a.m. through 3 p.m.”

General admission fees apply to Kids Day, according to Director Theriac, and there are two special fees.

“The pony rides will be available from 11 a.m. through 2:30 p.m.,” Theriac said, “and there is a \$2 fee per ride. Near the Petting Barn, from 11 a.m. until 3pm, children can pick numbered ducks in the Duck Pond for prizes at \$.50 per chance or three chances for \$1.”

Free activities include an egg hunt in August. “We will hide 66 numbered eggs throughout the Zoo between 11 a.m. and 2:15 p.m.,” said Theriac. Children who find eggs can take them to the Education Center (which will be open from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.) and exchange them for a prize.”

Face painting, located near the Aviary, is free as are the Snake Game and the PassPort Game. “Each child will receive a PassPort when they enter the Zoo,” Director Theriac said. “In the Castle yard, children will use a snake tong to pick up three snakes and put them into a box. They’ll earn a sticker for their passport. Zookeepers will have stickers to give out to any child that asks a question about an animal on the PassPort. There’s only one sticker per animal per child.”

Ever wondered what the big cats and the monkeys eat for lunch? You can discover their menu by attending feeding demonstrations at Kids Day. The feline demonstration is scheduled for 1 p.m. and the primate demonstration at 2 p.m.

Zookeepers provide the daily hands-on service to animals, birds, reptiles, and insects for which they are responsible. The zookeeper responds to their charge’s needs, providing preventative health care, food and water, and a clean environment. But the zookeeper also provides for the animal’s emotional needs, and the keeper and the animals in their care form a special bond. You can learn some of the things the zookeepers at the Washington Park Zoo know about their animals by participating in “Meet

The Keeper” at 11:30 a.m. on Kids Day near the Petting Barn. Learn about hawks and other birds during the Bird Demo at 2:30 p.m.

Kids Day is a joint effort of the Washington Park Zoo and the Michigan City Zoological Society. For more information on Kids Day, contact the Washington Park Zoo at 219/873-1510. For more information on Washington Park Zoo, visit our website at www.washingtonparkzoo.com or call the Zoo at 219/873-1510.

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