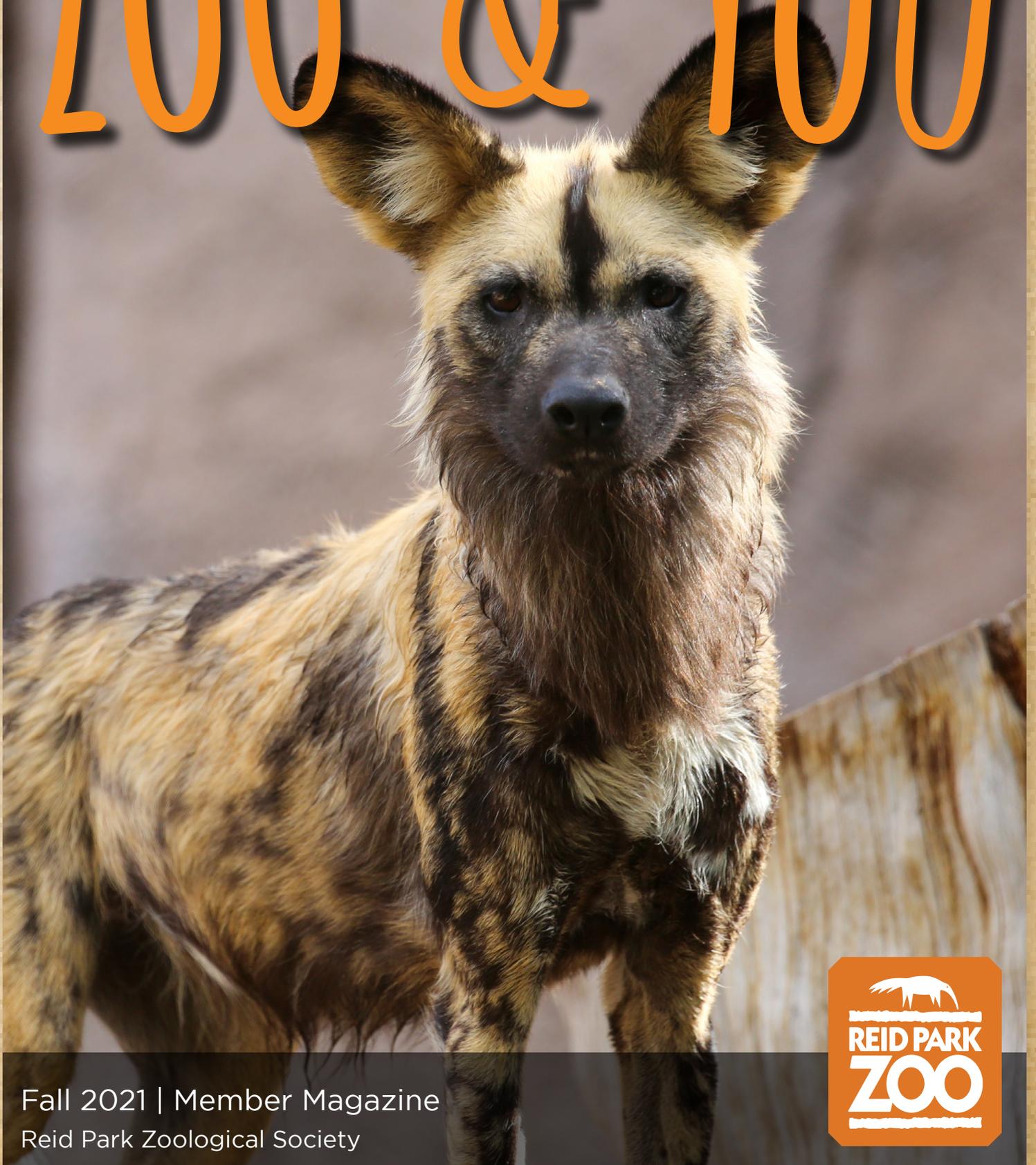


# ZOO & YOU



Fall 2021 | Member Magazine  
Reid Park Zoological Society





ZooFriendZ is a **very special circle** of people who are invested in the future of Tucson's Reid Park Zoo by donating \$500 or more annually.

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For more information, contact Gail Brown at [gail@reidparkzoo.org](mailto:gail@reidparkzoo.org) or (520) 881-4753.

**Reid Park Zoological Society**

1030 South Randolph Way  
Tucson, Arizona 85716  
P: (520) 881-4753

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**MESSAGE FROM  
PRESIDENT AND CEO**

Thank you, members! We are glad to see that so many of you are enjoying Reid Park Zoo as a place to enjoy time outdoors in nature and to learn about animals and conservation. Fall is a beautiful time to visit the Zoo. Here are some of the things I am enjoying in my personal walks around the Zoo this month:

- Watching individual flamingos – as you observe, you will begin to see the different personalities and activities going on during our flock's always busy day. If you can't get out to the Zoo, visit them from home on the Zoo's new flamingo webcam. Take some time and you will be surprised at what you see.
- Andean bear Oja can be a bundle of activity at different times of day. She has become the expert at playing with the logs in her pool and using them as a kickboard. If you don't see her, be sure to look high up in her tree where she has hauled leaves and other materials to make a nice nest for herself, or see if you can spot her in the hollowed-out tree trunk.
- The Flight Connection Aviary next to the Lee H. Brown Conservation Learning Center is bustling with activity. As you look around, the trees come to life. Our website can help identify your favorite birds. The one pictured on this page with a very serious look is a Cape thick-knee. The orange tree is full of oranges and some days you will see special treats the animal care team has left by breaking open the juicy fruit.



I hope you also get to enjoy some special moments at the Zoo! Your membership helps us fund not only these experiences but also field conservation to protect amazing animals such as Andean bears and other species throughout the world. Thank you for being a conservation hero - and drop us a note about your favorite spot in the Zoo at [info@reidparkzoo.org](mailto:info@reidparkzoo.org)!

*Nancy J. Kluge*

1030 S Randolph Way  
Tucson, AZ 85716

**ZOO HOURS:**

October-May 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
June-September 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

# THE ZOO BY YOU

Here's a look at the Zoo through your eyes! Tag us on social media to enter your own photos for the next issue of Zoo & You!



Christin Marie Photography

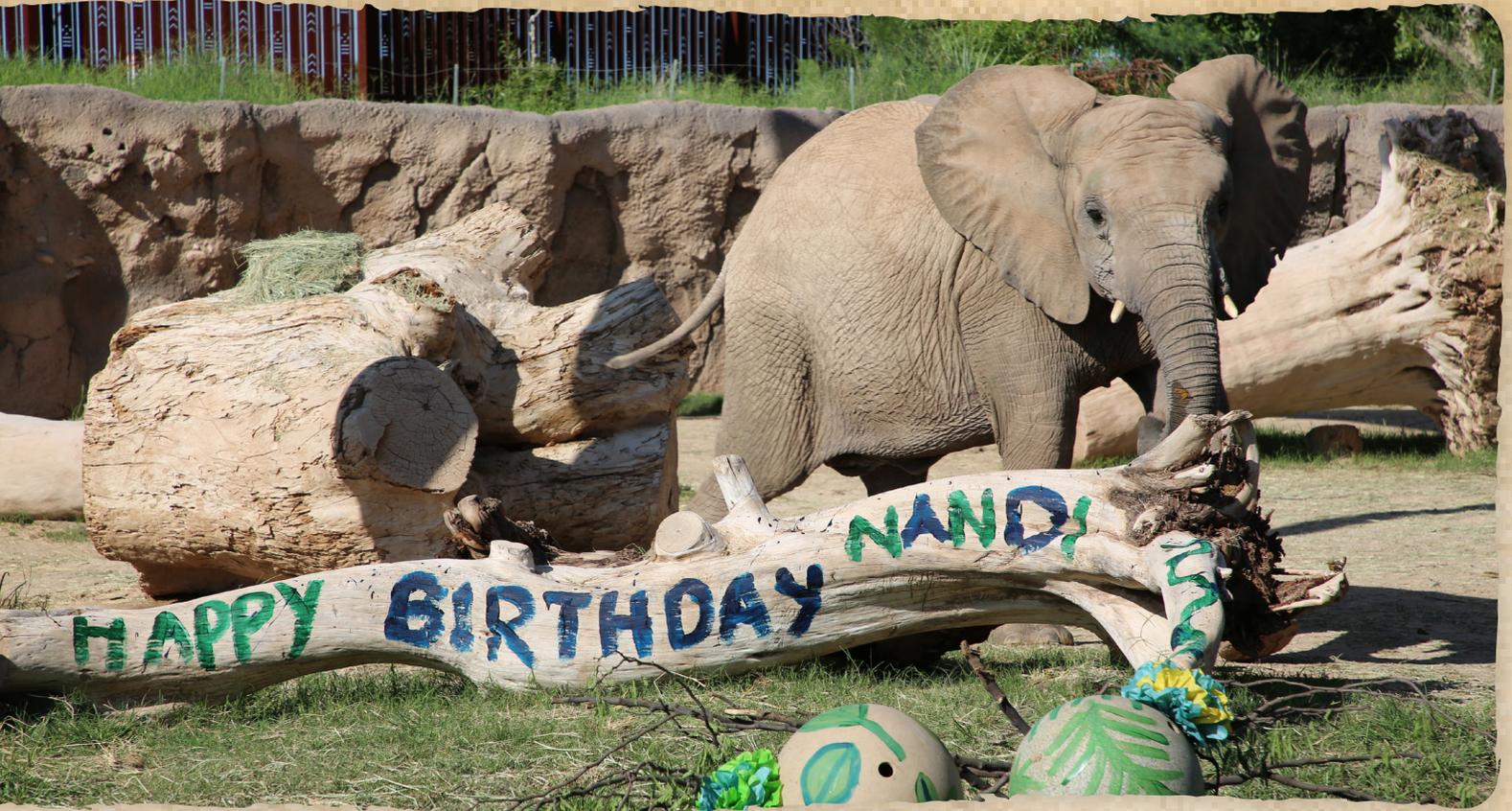


@sethharris\_photo on Instagram



@itstrishtalko on Instagram

# NANDI'S 7TH BIRTHDAY



## Celebrating Nandi and Elephants Everywhere

It is hard to believe this much time has passed but Nandi, the first elephant born in Arizona and at Reid Park Zoo, recently celebrated her 7th birthday! As part of her festivities, Nandi enjoyed boxes of treats, a fruity ice pop, a sandcastle, and fresh browse.

Elephants are extraordinary animals that need your help. Poaching for ivory has pushed elephants to the brink of extinction.

You can take a stand for elephants by refusing to purchase ivory products, learning about the challenges elephants face, and supporting your Zoo.





## Steps You Can Take at Home

- Say no to plastic straws or use a re-useable straw
- Use a re-useable water bottle
- Bring your own containers to restaurants for leftovers
- Use re-useable bags when shopping and skip the plastic bags
- Buy from companies that use minimal or recycled packaging
- Take a plastic inventory around your house. Collect all the things that are made of plastic and are only used once before being thrown away/recycled (your kitchen and bathrooms are the best place to start!) Then as a family, brainstorm ways to replace these items with re-useable items

While the official Plastic Free Ecochallenge has ended, you can still visit the site for more tips and inspiration to be plastic free all year long: <https://plasticfree.ecochallenge.org/>



## Reducing Single-Use Plastic

What is an impactful and easy way your entire family can protect wild animals and wild places? The answer: reduce your use of single-use plastics!

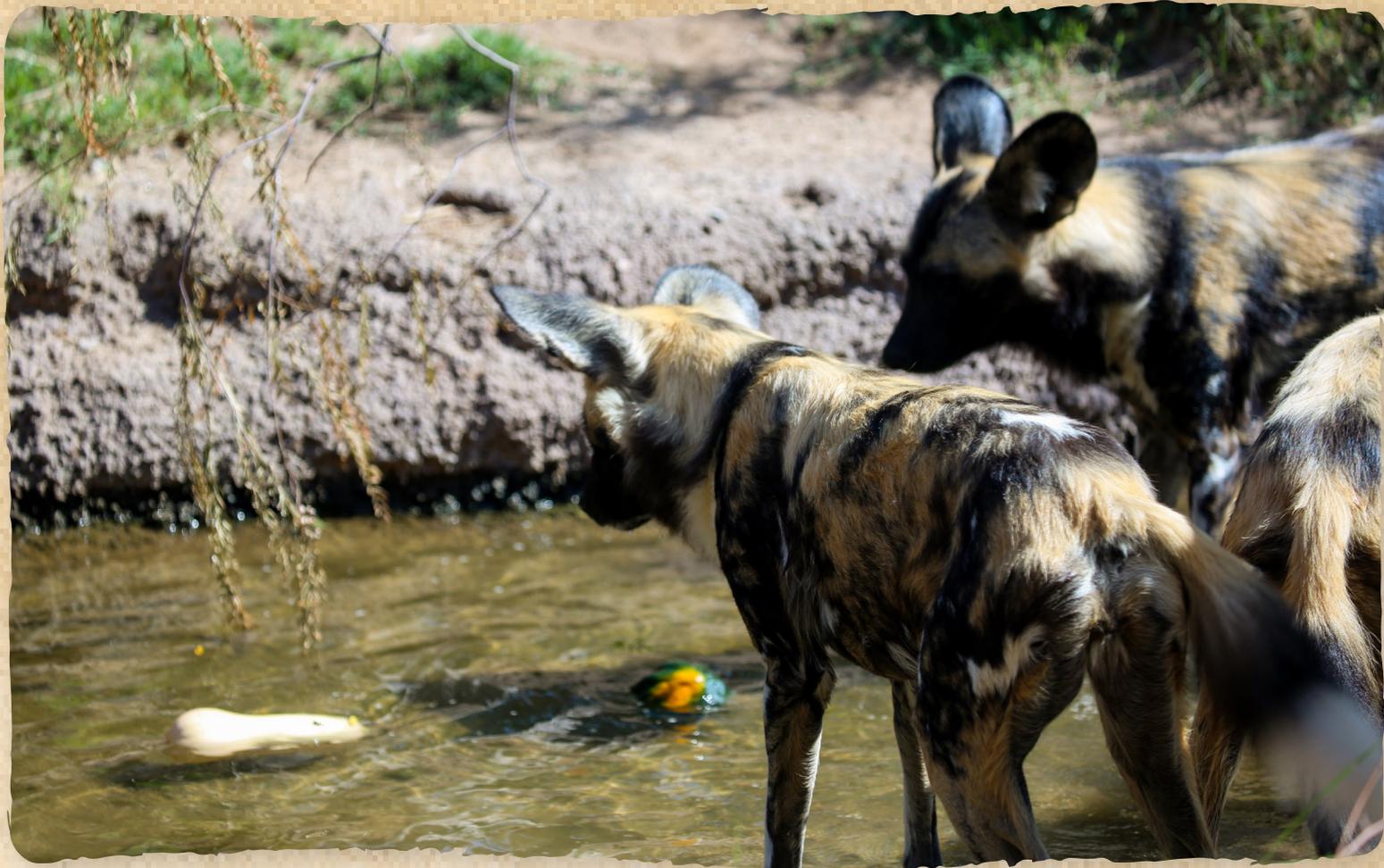
This past July, 6,522 people around the world pledged to reduce their use of plastic throughout every aspect of their lives for a month. Our collective impact around the world diverted 159,552 items of plastic (cups, plates, utensils, packaging, straws) from the landfill.

The Plastic Free Ecochallenge occurs every July. Organizations from around the world create teams and compete to see which team makes the most progress in reducing their plastic use. This year, 391 teams participated, with Reid Park Zoo's team of 49 people ranking 25th overall! Once again, as in years prior, Reid Park Zoo's community has proven their

commitment to protect wild animals and wild places. Way to go team!

Plastic pollution is an enormous hazard to habitats all around the world. Sadly, each year marine mammals and sea turtles die from ingesting or being tangled in plastics. Species on land feel the effects too as tiny pieces of plastic release toxins into the soil and waterways. These tiny microscopic plastics affect humans as well. They've been detected in the seafood we eat, and also in salt, sugar, and beer.

According to the EPA, 35.7 million tons of plastic was used in the United States in 2018 (1 ton = the weight of one giraffe). Only three million tons (8.7%) was able to be recycled. The bottom line: we are simply using more plastic than we can recycle!



## African Wild Dogs: The Color of Fall

Heading into fall, we look forward to the cooling temperatures, delicious soups, caramel apples, and pumpkin spice everything. One of the biggest treats of the season for our animals are the loads of pumpkins

we receive. Each animal uses and interacts with the pumpkins differently. The elephant herd chomps them down for a quick snack, the meerkat mob crawls through them, the lions bat them around with their big paws, and the African wild dogs investigate them as a pack.

Last fall, one of the biggest threats the wild dogs perceived in their habitat was a mysterious orange-colored object floating in their pool. Grommet, Sandy, Terra, and Cricket bounded out of their behind-the-scenes den to see what

treats might wait for them in their habitat. But the four African wild dog sisters were all momentarily stopped in their tracks. Their enormous ears were all straight up at attention, their dark eyes wide open, and their noses actively breathing in the scent. They moved together as a close pack, and step by step cautiously approached the pumpkin bobbing in the water. Was it a trick or a treat? A trap or a delicious snack?

First Sandy, serious in nature but curious, approached the pumpkin while the



other three girls were in her shadow. When she was just a dog's length away — the pumpkin slowly spun in the pool - leading the whole pack to leap back and vocalize with low grumbles. Then with a new strategy for exploring and stalking the pumpkin - teams of two - Sandy and Cricket approached from one side, while Grommet and Terra came from another direction. Closer, closer, closer and just when a dog might be ready to pounce, the pumpkin spun and moved in the flowing water again.

When animal care staff give the animals enrichment items, they often have a good idea of what might happen. This pumpkin's fate was to be nosed around, bit open and maybe rolled in by the pack of dogs. However, the pack found it much more of a bonding



experience than the animal care staff could imagine. The dogs worked together to get close to the bobbing vegetable. Who knew pumpkin fun could last so long?

The stalking continued as the group of four, then at times Sandy and Cricket, took a break while Grommet and Terra monitored the squash. In the end - it was Cricket who finally took the brave step into the pool and jabbed it hard with her nose as the other dogs vocalized low gruff calls.

These experiences, while they may appear amusing, are an important part of the pack dynamic. African wild dogs, or painted dogs, as they are sometimes called, are highly social. In the wild, they spend their lives hunting together, watching for and defending the pack from threats, grooming together, sleeping together and of course as young

animals, playing together. At the Zoo, we see those same behaviors - but for our wild dogs the scary threat is not a lion but a pumpkin floating in the pool!

This vigilance in wild dogs — to watch out for one another and act as a pack — helps them survive in the wild. African wild dogs are facing threats from habitat fragmentation which ultimately leads to being in close proximity to humans. Reid Park Zoo supports conservation efforts to save wild habitat for wild dogs.





## Drink Local Wine and Support Your Zoo, Too!

Local winery Rancho Rossa Vineyards has released a new premium wine benefiting Reid Park Zoo called Wine of the Wild. The wine is a red blend of cabernet sauvignon and merlot with fresh grapes from southern Arizona.

Rancho Rossa Vineyards has been producing wine on 24 acres in beautiful Elgin, Arizona since 2004. Breanna and Chris Hamilton, owners of the vineyards, have a long history of supporting animal causes and have their own non-profit branch of their business called Rescued Hearts Cellars that helps

pay for veterinary services for domestic animals in local rescues. The Hamiltons wanted to continue to give back to organizations that protect animals and have a deep connection to Reid Park Zoo.

“The Zoo is really important to us,” says Breanna. She fondly remembers spending time in Reid Park Zoo with her grandmother as a child. Her grandmother had Alzheimer’s disease, but the Zoo was one place where her grandmother still looked happy. Wildlife conservation and connecting with children are also important

to the Hamiltons. “We love that Reid Park Zoo is small but does big things.”

The wine labels feature artistic illustrations of six species at the Zoo: African elephants, squirrel monkeys, giraffes, flamingos, white rhinos, and anteaters.

Rancho Rossa Vineyards is open for in-person tastings. Wine of the Wild can be purchased for \$25 a bottle on their website: <https://ranchorossa.com>. One hundred percent of the profit earned from this wine directly benefits Reid Park Zoo.

# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

## A Wild Night Created by a Great Pack

This year Reid Park Zoo's gala, ZOOcson, will be celebrating its 28th year raising funds to support the Zoo's educational programs, conservation efforts and improvements to the Zoo for its animals and visitors. Throughout its history, ZOOcson has been led by a group of dedicated volunteers from the southern Arizona community including a representative from the Reid Park Zoo Board of Directors as the Committee Chair.

The Committee works tirelessly beginning in March each year preparing for ZOOcson. There are many components to organizing a successful event and each member also volunteers for a subcommittee which could be contacting restaurants to participate, soliciting auction items, planning the program or finding sponsors. Only one year was missed holding the event (2002) and

over \$2.5 million has been raised for the Zoo through ZOOcson!

2020's committee was dealt a very big challenge: COVID-19. How do you hold an event during a pandemic? The Committee determined early on that an in-person event would not be feasible by October and decided to focus on a virtual event which would be free to the public but had the option of a meal package to enjoy while viewing. They also pivoted to an online format for the auction which resulted in raising double the normal in-person event! The funds raised in 2020 were extremely important due to the Zoo being closed for nearly six months and then reopening to very limited admission until the spring of 2021. Over \$150,000 was raised to support the Zoo during the 2020 event.



Committee Chair Nate Clark, along with the ZOOcson Committee is thrilled to have ZOOcson back in-person at the Zoo on October 8, 2021. Tickets are on sale now including a VIP option with animal experiences in our South America Loop. We hope you will be able to join in the celebration. Tickets are on sale now at [ReidParkZoo.org](http://ReidParkZoo.org)

**ZOOcson**  
Food • Entertainment • Auctions  
Friday, October 8, 2021 at Reid Park Zoo

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS



Reid Park Zoo is excited to bring back select, in-person education programs beginning in October. Advance registration is required!

Please note for all programs, masks must be worn at all times. Program capacity will be limited to allow for social distancing.

Check [reidparkzoo.org/events](http://reidparkzoo.org/events) for list of dates and to register.

## DR ZOO

Ages 8-12

Sunday October 17 or  
Saturday, Nov 6

**\$15 for members**

Your child will experience first-hand the importance of math and science in diagnosing and treating animal ailments through hands-on activity stations that are based on real-life zoo scenarios. Advance registration is required.

## JR ZOO

Ages 6-12

Saturday, Oct 2 or  
Saturday Nov 20

**\$15 for members**

Through this interactive, hands-on program your child will experience a snapshot of a day in the life of a Zoo Keeper. Advance registration is required.

## ZOO CAREER WORKSHOP

Grades 7-12

Saturday, Oct 30

This 3-hour workshop will provide hands-on basic exploration of the following jobs at the Zoo: animal care, veterinary, groundskeeping, carpentry, marketing/social media, and guest services. This program is FREE thanks to a donation from the Kasser Family. Advance registration is required.

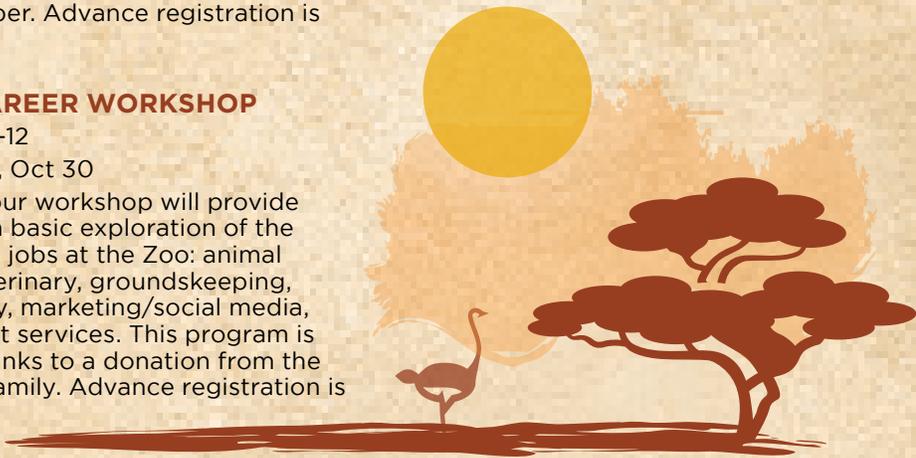
## Save the Date:

### WINTER CAMP

Dec 28, 29, 30

Grades 1-6

Advance registration will be required. Single day and multi-day registration will be available.



For more information on these and other upcoming events and education programs, please visit our website at [www.ReidParkZoo.org](http://www.ReidParkZoo.org)  
Check back often to see what's new at your Zoo!

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Reid Park Zoo events?

Call 881-4753 or email [gail@reidparkzoo.org](mailto:gail@reidparkzoo.org)

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ZOOCSON

Friday, October 8, 6-9 p.m.

**Tickets starting at \$110**

Mark your calendar for Reid Park Zoo's all-inclusive, signature fundraiser featuring tastings from Tucson's favorite restaurants, liquid libations, live music, unique auctions and animal encounters in a wild night for wildlife. This year's inspiration are the colorful African wild dogs. Ages 21 and older only.

## ZOOLIGHTS

December 5 - 23, 6-9 p.m., Encore Nights December 26 - 30, 6-9 p.m.

**Zoo Members Night - December 2**  
**Presented by Tucson Electric Power**

**Presented by:**



All is merry and bright at this year's ZooLights. Enter a winter wonderland filled with thousands of twinkling lights and seasonal displays, plus visits with Jolly St. Nick, seasonal entertainment, hot cocoa and festive foods. It's a Tucson tradition! Check the website for special themed evenings and entertainment. Enjoy the festivities and sample craft beer at a special **BrewLights on Friday, December 3.**

## Fall Festivities



## SPIRITS AT THE ZOO

Saturday, October 30, 6-9 p.m.

**\$45 for Zoo members, \$55 for general public**

**\$30 Zoo member designated driver, \$35 general public designated driver**

**Limited tickets available online, price will go up \$10 at the gate the night of the event**

**Presented by:**



Who says Halloween is just for kids? Wear your costume and come out to the Zoo for beer, wine and spooky cocktails, plus food, dancing, animal encounters, experience raffle and haunting surprises. There will be a costume contest in several categories, so watch for details on the Zoo website. It's wicked fun to benefit the Zoo's conservation projects. This is a 21 and older event only and all guests must show proof of age. Limited animal viewing.

## SMASH BASH

Saturday, October 16, 9 a.m. - Noon

**Free with Zoo admission**

Watch animals enjoy a fun fall enrichment treat - pumpkins. Some crushing, dunking, rolling and curious exploration are sure be in order. A schedule will be posted on our website prior to the event.



## BOO AT THE ZOO

Thursday - Sunday, October 21 - 24, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Member early entry 5:30 p.m.

**\$9 members, \$11 general public**

**Presented by:**



Scare up some fun at the wildest Halloween event in town. The Zoo transforms into four nights of spooktacular delight for the kids with favorite characters and safe trick or treating, plus spooky sets and scenes including Pirates Cove, Creepy-Crawly Bug Town, Skeletown and the Rancho Sahuarita Fall Festival Zone with games, music, and Pumpkin Patch. Join us for a monstrously good time! Limited animal viewing.



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Tucson, Arizona 85716

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# BOO! AT THE ZOO

October 21-24, 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Member Entry at 5:30 p.m.



Presented by



For tickets and information, visit [ReidParkZoo.org](http://ReidParkZoo.org)