



December 2017



Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Volunteer Connections



Special Thank You to all
volunteers & staff who
contribute, produce,
and distribute the
Volunteer Connections
Newsletter!

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Calendar of Events for November & December

Date / Time	Event	Location
Now - Dec. 31 - 5 - 10 pm	<i>PNC Festival of Lights</i>	Entire Zoo
Tue. Dec. 5 - 6 pm	<i>Gorilla World Re-Opening</i>	Gorilla World
Tues. Dec. 5	<i>CREW POTLUCK</i>	CREW
Thur. Dec. 7 - 12 pm - 1:30 pm	<i>Horticulture POTLUCK</i>	Safari Lodge
Sat. Dec. 9 - 11 am	<i>Volunteer Educator POTLUCK</i>	Frisch's Theater
Sun. Dec. 31 - 8:55 pm	<i>Happy ZOO Year</i> - Countdown & Fireworks Begin	Entire Zoo

Nature Events Around Greater Cincinnati

Now - Dec. 31 **Holiday in Lights @ Sharon Woods** from 6 pm - 9 pm.

- \$13 per car; for more information call 513-769-0393.

Dec. 9 -31 **A Holiday with the Harpers @ Rowe Woods** 9 am - 5 pm

Dec. 16 **Winter Family Fun @ Civic Garden Center** from 10 am - 12 pm

- \$5 per participant; Register with the Civic Garden Center.

YOGA at the Zoo!

December 5, 2017 – February 6, 2018

Here is how it works: The prices for these classes are being offered to us at a hefty discount, and to continue that pricing, **we need a commitment of at least 10 people who will be pre-paying for the full session.**



If you are interested in participating, you can pay the instructor Nikki directly or you may just drop in if you don't want to commit to a full session. However, anyone who will commit to at **least 10 classes** (1 session), they will pay **\$50 up front (that's only \$5 per class!)**.

NEW DATE: Yoga is every Tuesday (4:30pm – 5:30 pm). Classes are held in The Lodge, but please check your MVP Home page every Tuesday for updates; as yoga sometimes gets moved. We will email you as well if a location change happens last minute. *You are welcome to park in the Safari Lot if you are arriving just before class starts, or move your vehicle from the Dury lot.*

YOGA at the Zoo! (continued)

Employee & Volunteer Price: Prepay \$50.00 for a session (by check or cash directly to the instructor Nikki)

- * Each session is 10 classes (\$5 a session)
- * Note that these are 10 consecutive classes and you will not be refunded for missed classes

Employees & Volunteer: Walk-in to any class and pay \$7

- * This requires no pre-commitment on your part
- * Must bring money with you to class

No sign-up or RSVP required, just show up WITH YOUR MAT and MONEY :)

Giving Tree

You already give so much through your time, talents, and passion for the Zoo's mission, however, we know many of you love to help make spirits bright by giving gifts, not only to the animals in our care but to our friends in Horticulture as well. This year there are three easy ways to give:

GIVING TREES* - The CREW volunteer leadership team has created two beautiful trees covered in "Wish List" ornaments. These trees are located in the Education lobby and at CREW. You may take an ornament(s) off of either of the trees. Please deliver the wrapped gift, along with the ornament identifying the recipient, to either the VSO or CREW anytime between **November 1 and December 4.**—*Gifts for Horticulture are only on the giving trees.

GIVING TREE ONLINE GIFT REGISTRY*

Click [here](#) or <https://thankfulregistry.com/CZBGAnimalEnrichment> to visit our new online gift registry. The registry password is **wishlist**. With the registry, you can choose to have your gift shipped directly to the Zoo or to your home. If you plan on bringing it to the Zoo, please deliver the wrapped gift either the VSO or CREW between **November 1 and December 4.**

**All items on the ornaments and the registry have gone through the enrichment committee approval process, so please purchase the exact item noted. Similar items may use different materials that have not been approved.*

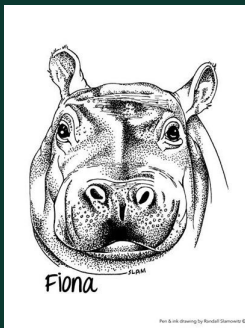
MAKE A DIRECT DONATION TO THE ANIMAL ENRICHMENT FUND

Some of the items care staff would like to have for their animals haven't been added to either of these options (too large or pricey), or they simply need certain materials or parts to custom make enrichment items. This is where the enrichment fund comes in! If you would like to contribute directly to this fund, please click [here](#) or <https://cincinnatizoo.thankyou4caring.org/pages/enrichment> Gifts will be distributed at a reception hosted by CREW volunteers, Tuesday, December 5, 2017, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to stop by CREW for some holiday cheer!

Zoo News

Gorilla World Update: Starting at 6 p.m. on December 5, visitors will be able to see gorillas in their new indoor habitat. This will be the first time in Zoo history that Gorilla World will be open during PNC Festival of Lights!

Here is a sneak peak of Jomo's entire troop in the indoor habitat together



“Fiona” Pen & Ink Portrait Prints Available!

The prints were created by our graphic designer, Randy, and are \$10 a print. Please contact Randy at randy.slamowitz@cincinnati-zoo.org to purchase a “Fiona” print.

Cassandra Crawford

PNC Festival of Lights Update: The reindeer are back! And this year's celebration has 19 brand new, larger-than-life animal lanterns placed throughout the Zoo. The lanterns are dazzling!



Zoosters

Hi everyone!

It is finally here “FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS”. We had bit of change for set-up this year. We setup on Wednesday afternoon and things couldn’t have gone better. We started about noon and we were set up by 4:00 pm. Thanks to everyone who helped and a thank you to Mollie and Sabrina that all things went so smoothly.

We did really well on Thursday (Donor’s night) and Friday (Members night) but Saturday (Opening night) was a wash out with all the rain.

We have such beautiful things that our Zoosters made and we always get lots of compliments on our merchandise. We have so many repeat customers, who like to see what we have every season. I like to thank all the Zoosters for all that they do every year!!!

When you are working at the Treasure House or here with your family, take a look at SANTA’S MAILBOX outside the entrance of the main door. Three of our newest members: Marsha Heath, Sissy Galbraith and Karen Herbert, came for a visit to the Zoo and decided that the mailbox needed an overhaul. So they took it on to repaint and repair the roof. So now it looks really beautiful, Even the maintenance men complimented them. SEE PHOTO!!! →



A REMINDER!!!

Zooster’s Christmas Party is Tuesday, December 5th at 11:30 am at the Red Rose on Hamilton Ave. If you turn on Cedar Ave. (Light) the parking lot for Red Rose is on the right in the rear. Come in the back door off the lot. Gift exchange is \$5 - \$10. You can participate if you wish. Please let me know if you can come, we need a final count by December 1.

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Stay safe.

Paulette Leppert

Horticulture

Many thanks to our Horticulture Volunteers for yet another amazing season. We have accomplished a great deal this year and there is much to be celebrated. With that in mind, we will be holding our end of season Holiday Potluck on the first Thursday in December. Please bring your smiling faces and a dish to share. Hope to see you!

Save the Date

Thursday, December 7th, noon-1:30pm - Horticulture Holiday/End of Season Potluck at the **Safari Lodge**.



Day in the Life

Our Zoo is full of diverse departments, positions, and volunteer roles, which combine to help make our Zoo one of the best! Each month we will explore the “Day in the Life” of a Zoo role, and learn just what it takes to make this Zoo amazing.

AmeriCorps Corporate Community Engagement Member

Written by: Haley Duff

As the Corporate Community Engagement AmeriCorps member, I have the responsibility of bringing corporate groups to the zoo for a single day of volunteering in a way that encourages environmental stewardship and action. Since beginning in September 2017, we have had five groups totaling 126 volunteers and over 450 hours! Most of the events this fall have focused on preparing the Zoo for the holiday season through helping the maintenance team with Festival of Lights or the horticulture team with weatherizing plants and planting tulip bulbs.

Planning these events takes quite a bit of work, and cannot be summed up in just one day! Our ideal time frame to plan is about three weeks before the event. That gives us time to finalize plans, and some wiggle room for last minute details.



Day in the Life (continued)

The day of the event keeps me running around the Zoo. I usually arrive about 45 minutes – 1 hour before the volunteers arrive. I get together my ‘project binder’ which has safety waivers, maps, extra parking passes, and post-event surveys, grab a radio and as many pens as I can and head out to meet the group! One of the guys from maintenance will radio me where to bring the group and we’ll get to work. When visiting Festival of Lights this year, check out the path behind administration, the area by the bull elephant yard, the penguins by Children’s Zoo, and the light ropes around the tulip beds- those were all hung by corporate volunteers! Running between these places taking pictures and checking in, I’ll usually get about 13,000 steps in before the event is over at noon. After all their hard work, the volunteers have gotten to interact with an animal friend from Education or Wild Encounters, and help us better the program with a post-service survey.



Then, as a thank you, they can explore the Zoo the rest of the day with free parking!



Working between departments in the Zoo and external corporate groups comes with its challenges. If a group reaches out to us less than three weeks before their requested date, everything goes into over drive to plan! If more volunteers showed up than requested, we must find more work for them to do that is still meaningful and productive. We’ve also seen some very excited coordinators contact us for an event, but struggle to find the buy-in from their team to come.

This upcoming spring, we hope to be just as busy as the fall was with corporate volunteer groups. If you, or someone you know is a part of an organization that would like to serve for a day, please share the following link
www.cincinnati.org/corporatecommunityservice,
 or contact
serve4aday@cincinnati.org!



THANK YOU!!!

This past year has been exciting,
from new Zoo babies to new habi-
tats, and we are looking forward
to what 2018 has in store.

Happy Holidays! See you in 2018!
~Mollie & Sabrina~



Cincinnati Zoo &
Botanical Garden

Volunteer & Intern
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED