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GET DOWN TO EARTH WITH A PARTY FOR THE PLANET AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM APRIL 20-21

Polar bears, primates, sharks, elephants and other animals get special treats and enrichments; people benefit from the fun of watching the action – plus there will be lots of activities for everyone

TACOMA, Wash. - Polar bears devour a block of ice topped with a marshmallow creation – a sight that’s a “must see” for bear lovers.

Sharks investigate a dive cage that visitors will use this summer for Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives.



Primates chow down on special “cookies” while their keepers discuss ways people can help their wild counterparts.

A steel drum band plays as visitors learn more about the world around them with hands-on crafts and activities.

Tacoma Power hands out free energy-efficient light bulbs to show visitors how cool – and easy - environmental friendliness can be.

This is Earth Day Weekend at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. It’s the best place in Puget Sound to celebrate Earth Day, with two days full of amazing animals, information and activities for people of all ages.

And it's all free April 20 and 21 with paid or member admission to the zoo.

This special Earth Day weekend Party for the Planet is presented by Tacoma Power.

It's packed with helpful ideas about how we can ensure a bright future for wild things and wild places.

Earth Day Weekend at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium also will be chock full of fun for animals and people. Activities run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

They include:

- **Kid Calypso Steel Drum Band** performs at 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Shellfish science:** A fun chemistry demonstration all visitors can enjoy.
- **Survival in the Arctic:** People see if they could survive as polar bears.
- **Be a scientist:** Visitors match photos of animals caught in camera "traps."
- **One paw print at a time:** Humans learn how to shrink their carbon footprints.

Tacoma Power is pleased to be presenting sponsor for Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium's Earth Day Weekend events, said Steve Bicker, Tacoma Power's conservation resources manager.

"Earth Day is the perfect time to do something for the environment, and saving energy is a big part of that," he said. "We're partnering with Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium to provide visitors with information about energy efficiency, plus we'll be giving away compact fluorescent lights.

"Visitors can contact Tacoma Power conservation staff any time with questions," he added. "We offer additional information at www.knowyourpower.com about saving energy at home and at work, and about how to get cash rebates for projects that will also help save energy and money."

For more information about Earth Days at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, go to www.pdza.org.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, 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).

Earth Day Weekend

What: A celebration of the planet and what people can do to care for it and its inhabitants.

Where: Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

When: April 20-21.

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission: Prices range from \$15 to \$6.75, depending on age and place of residence.

Discounted tickets are available at www.pdza.org.
