



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Oct. 16, 2013

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**SCARECROWS AND CREEPY CRAWLIES, PLUS TREATS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY!**

*First ever Scarecrow Alley contest lets public help decorate Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, and a full slate of Zoo Boo events is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday*

TACOMA, Wash. – For the first time ever, members of the public can bring their own “scary” creatures for display at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

But they need to hurry, the deadline to register is today, and scarecrows must be delivered to the zoo by Friday.



The Scarecrow Alley contest coincides with the zoo’s popular annual Zoo Boo event, which is scheduled on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 19 and 20.

Members of the public may bring their homemade scarecrows for display at the zoo from today through Friday. Zoo Boo visitors will vote this

weekend on their favorite Scarecrow Alley entries. Winners receive tickets to Zoolights or Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

**Here are a few details on Scarecrow Alley and Zoo Boo:**

**Scarecrow Alley Entries** (full details and entry forms at [www.pdza.org](http://www.pdza.org))

- Scarecrows must be in good taste and not reflect controversial, social or political views.
- Constructed to withstand outdoor weather
- Built on a 1 ½ inch square post
- Dropped off during zoo hours, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. today through Friday
- A weatherproof sign (laminated is fine) should be attached on the lower part of the scarecrow stand with the entry name.

Scarecrow Alley ballots will be available at several locations during Zoo Boo, so visitors may vote for their favorite entries.

### **Zoo Boo**

Members of the public who come in costume (no scary masks, please), receive \$2 off general admission to the annual fall festival. Zoo grounds will be decorated with carved pumpkins and creative displays as zookeepers show off their artistic sides.

Animals will receive special treats or other enrichments through the day on Saturday and Sunday, and there will be an array of activities for members of the public. All activities are free with zoo admission.

Zoo Boo activities include:

- **Animal enrichments:** Meerkats, polar bears, tigers, elephants, red wolves, primates and walrus all receive special treats, many of them will be pumpkins
- **Special animal appearances:** Close encounters scheduled at various times with a tarantula, bat, owl, skunk and aardvark

### **Activities and Treats for People**

- Guess the pumpkin weight
- See creepy crawlies
- Learn how animals use their sense of touch
- Dissect an owl pellet
- See the Scarecrow Alley contest with scarecrows around the zoo
- Fall and “scary” decorations all around the zoo
- Watch the public dive with sharks in the South Pacific Aquarium
- Food treats and other giveaways to visitors

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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).*