



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 26, 2017

**SPEND A SPRING BREAK 'STAYCATION' APRIL 3-7
WITH CONSERVATION SUPERSTARS AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM**



TACOMA, Wash. - Spring Break will be here soon, and now's a great time to make plans for time with the kids.

There's no better place around Puget Sound for a "staycation" than Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, where families can spend time close to home and get in a bit of "globetrotting" at the same time.

During Spring Break Superstars April 3-7, there's a whole world of animals to see, and a different "conservation

superstar" animal will be highlighted each day.

Animal enrichments such as special food items are designed to stimulate the animals both mentally and physically as they figure out how to get to the treats and then expend some energy doing so.

Here's the schedule of featured animals:

Monday, April 3

Red wolves: These animals are native to the Southeastern United States, and Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium has been instrumental in saving the species from extinction.

Enrichment: Papier-mâché flowers at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, April 4

Sharks: Visitors can check out the South Pacific Aquarium, home to over a dozen sharks of five different species. Sharks swim all the world's oceans, but are increasingly threatened by finning and overfishing. In addition to the massive sharks that circle gracefully in the main shark exhibit, two smaller shark species live with their cartilaginous cousins at Stingray Cove, where visitors can gently touch them.

Enrichment: Rainbow Fishsicle at 11 a.m.

Wednesday, April 5

Elephants: Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is home to two Asian elephants, Hanako and Suki. A grant from the zoo's Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund supports work being done by Conservation Response Units to help protect elephants in Sumatra.

Enrichment: Springtime fruit bowl at 1 p.m.

Thursday, April 6

Polar Bears: These massive mammals are native to the coastal regions, islands and seas of the Arctic. Two polar bears, Boris and Blizzard, live at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium as ambassadors for their wild counterparts. A research project that tracks male polar bears in the wild using GPS ear tags is supported by the zoo's Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund, in partnership with Polar Bears International.

Enrichment: Ice treats and toys at 11:30 a.m.

Friday, April 7

Tigers: Sumatran tigers, native to the Indonesian island of Sumatra, are critically endangered due to poaching, habitat loss, and human-tiger conflict. Tiger Conservation Campaign donations collected through The Zoo Society's Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund support anti-poaching patrols and community education efforts in Sumatra.

Enrichment: Special treat at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, visit 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).

Contact:

Whitney DalBalcon, 253-404-3637 or whitney.dalbalcon@pdza.org