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Contacts:

Kris Sherman, 253-404-3800; 253-226-6718 or kris.sherman@pdza.org

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

CELEBRATE MOTHER EARTH – AND MEET SOME PRETTY COOL ANIMALS - DURING A PARTY FOR THE PLANET SATURDAY AND SUNDAY AT POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

TACOMA, Wash. – Can a humble T-shirt make a difference to the planet?

Yep, sure can. In fact, it's in the bag.



Staff members at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium will show visitors exactly how during the zoo's annual Earth Day Party on Saturday, April 11, and Sunday, April 12.

Turning old T-shirts into reusable fabric bags (no sewing skills necessary!) is just one of the many crafts and activities that will be available to highlight ways we all can be more kind to Mother Earth.

Just think of all the plastic bags that won't get used when purchases and other supplies get tucked into a T-shirt bag.

Plus, it's a great way to re-purpose an old garment. Visitors can bring their own T-shirts for the craft or pick up one that's been donated to the zoo for the event.

The two-day Earth Day Party will feature a variety of tips on ways everyone can reduce, reuse and recycle. Plus many of the zoo's residents will receive special Earth Day-themed enrichments, so there will be lots of super-fun animal watching.

A variety of organizations from the community will set up booths with information about ways to reduce carbon footprints.

Tacoma Public Utilities is a presenting sponsor of the Earth Day Party at the zoo.

In addition to the DIY Reusable Bag craft activities include:

- Building houses for bats, toads or bees
- Bowling with Earth-shaped balls to knock down a target.
- Signing pledges to help protect sharks, ban the sale and trade of ivory and support manufacturers that use sustainable palm oil in their products.

Here's the schedule for special animal enrichments this weekend.

Saturday

11 a.m. Outer Reef Shark Feed, South Pacific Aquarium
11:30 a.m. Polar bears receive toys and an icing enrichment
12:30 p.m. Tigers get piles of ice in which to play
1 p.m. Elephants receive watermelon enrichments
1:30 p.m. Animal Close Encounter at Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater
2 p.m. Red wolves receive a special Earth Day enrichment

Sunday

11 a.m. Lagoon Feed, South Pacific Aquarium
11:30 a.m. Polar bears receive toys and an icing enrichment
1 p.m. Clouded leopards receive special treats
1:30 p.m. Animal Close Encounter at Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater
2 p.m. Red wolves receive a special Earth Day enrichment

All activities are free with membership or general admission to the zoo.

Zoo hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

For more information, 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).