



FEED A GOAT – OR AN ANEMONE – AT NEW “ZOO FOR YOU”

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium to launch personalized Zoo For You animal experiences Groovy Goats and Pacific Seas Aquarium Behind-the-Scenes on Aug. 21.

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TACOMA, Wash. – Missing goats? Need an anemone hug?

You're not alone. For many folks, getting up close to touch animals was a highlight of visiting Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium – a highlight not currently safe to do in large groups.

So on Aug. 21 the Zoo will launch a brand-new way to literally connect with animals: Zoo For You. The exclusive experiences are available for small-group single households, come with safety precautions and are highly personalized. Led by a trained Zoo staff member, the experiences take guests beyond the public areas to feed, groom, touch and learn about animals, getting hands-on insights into how zookeepers and aquarists care for those animals every day.

The first two Zoo For You experiences will be Groovy Goats and Pacific Seas Aquarium Behind-the-Scenes. Both launch on August 21.

“We’re thrilled we can offer these meaningful connections to our guests,” said Wendy Spaulding, conservation engagement curator, who heads up Zoo For You. “Not only are goat feeding and the Tidal Touch Zone some of our guests’ favorite experiences, they’re also ones that really deepen our empathy with the animal world. And the animals also enjoy the experience!”

Groovy Goats

Bring your kids to meet ours! Go through a special entrance into our Contact Junction yard to give our goats the ultimate day-spa experience. Brush them, pat them, scratch their ears and watch them soak up the attention! You’ll get special tips on how to interact with goats, learn all about what they like to eat and do, and get to know them personally.

Pose for a photo with your favorite goat, then head around to the feeding area to hand-feed them their favorite pellets! Turns out goats need plenty of social interaction, just like us – so you’ll be enriching their day at the same time.

Times: 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily

Length: 30 minutes

Age: 5 and up (one adult must accompany)

Cost: \$100 per member group/\$150 per non-member group, with up to 5 single-household participants per group

Includes: Zoo admission

Pacific Seas Aquarium Behind-the-Scenes

Ever touched a moon jellyfish? Seen baby jellies through a giant microscope? Fed an anemone? The Pacific Seas Aquarium Behind-the-Scenes experience is a fascinating tour through the backstage areas that only aquarists get to see. Slip through the staff door in the Jelly Gallery and come face-to-bell with moon jellies, see tiny polyps (nascent jellyfish) swirling on a microscope screen, look down into the Northwest Waters habitat from above and discover hands-on how aquarists test water for salinity and temperature.

Say hi to real aquarists as they pass by at their work and find out how they care for marine animals. Then enter the shimmery world above the Baja Bay habitat, spotting green sea turtles, hammerhead sharks and eagle rays, and discovering how they are cared for.

This tour is perfect for curious minds, those who love science or marine animals, and anyone who has wondered how the magic of the Pacific Seas Aquarium is made! It finishes with a private session hand-feeding sea stars or anemones in the Tidal Touch Zone. Don't forget to get your finger hugged.

Times: 12pm daily

Length: 75 minutes

Age: 8 and up (one adult must accompany)

Cost: \$440 per member group/\$465 per non-member group, with up to 5 single-household participants per group

Includes: Zoo admission

Health and Safety

To keep everyone safe during Zoo For You, staff and participants all follow these guidelines:

- Everyone must wear a face covering (age 5 and over)
- Staff and participants maintain six-foot social distance
- Single-households only
- All touched surfaces are thoroughly sanitized before and after each experience
- Hand-washing before and after each experience

For Zoo For You information and bookings, go to pdza.org/animal-experiences/.

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Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, the Northwest's only combined zoo and aquarium, practices and promotes responsible stewardship of the world's resources. A member of the [Metro Parks Tacoma](#) family, the zoo creates a legacy of sustainability for future generations through education, conservation, research and recreational opportunities; it also embodies Metro Parks' mission of creating healthy opportunities to play, learn and grow. The zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA). [The Zoo Society](#), a 501(c)(3) organization, is an instrumental partner in the conservation, animal-welfare and education initiatives.

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