



EXCITING WEEKEND OF ANIMAL EVENTS AT PIERCE COUNTY ZOOS

Watch animals feast on their favorite foods at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park and enjoy icy treats at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium Sept. 2-4

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 28, 2023

TACOMA/EATONVILLE, Wash.—Spend Labor Day weekend surrounded by animals Sept. 2-4 at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park in Eatonville and Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in Tacoma. The sister zoos will each be celebrating the unofficial end of summer with fun events for the whole family to enjoy.

Feeding Frenzy at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

When: Sept. 2- 4, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

The animals at Northwest Trek will rip, chew, and devour their favorite foods (like carcasses) during Feeding Frenzy. Why do we do this? It's great for animal health to eat foods they'd come across naturally in the wild, and to use their claws, teeth, and muscles to eat. Keepers get creative in presenting treats and enrichments for the animals to get them curious and encourage natural behaviors, like digging for food and using their brains to find it.

Schedule of Events:

Watch these animals chomp and munch at the times below

Sept. 2:

11:30 a.m.: Badgers

3 p.m.: Gray wolves

Sept. 3:

11:30 a.m.: Wolverines

1:30 p.m.: Grizzly Bears

Sept. 4:

11:30 a.m.: Otters

1:30 p.m.: Cougar

Each day from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. guests can take a tour of the commissary kitchen where keepers prepare the animals' diets. Guests can also practice their own diet preparation skills in the Cheney Discovery Center daily from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., along with games and activities highlighting the work animal keepers do to care for the animals.

Kids from toddlers to tweens can enjoy the half-acre, nature-inspired Kids' Trek play area, with child-sized cabins to explore, slides to go down, rope ladders and nets to climb, a stream to splash in, a sand box, and a construction area to stretch the imagination.

To learn more about the event, visit nwtrek.org.

End of Summer Blast at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

When: Sept. 2- 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

It's time to chill out! Join animals at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium in an all-weekend celebration jam-packed with cool activities - literally.

Watch animals like the tigers, sea otters and elephant play with icy treats and summery enrichments (at scheduled times below, so you don't miss it!). See the meerkats enjoy a beach day and explore their new beach setup in their habitat.

Kids can cool off and splash like an otter, frog, or fish on the lily pad splash pad in Kids' Zone, then climb on the playground and slide like a penguin. While you're there, don't forget to pet and feed the goats (open daily).

Stop by the Tidal Touch Zone in the Pacific Seas Aquarium and get an anemone hug around one finger. Feel the rough texture of sea stars, the spikiness of sea urchins, and the hardness of crab shells. You'll feel like you're at the beach!

Schedule of Events:

Watch animals enjoy special icy treats or enrichment at these times:

11 a.m. daily: Tigers
11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday: Sea turtles
11:30 a.m. daily: Polar bears
11:30 a.m. Sunday: Giant Pacific octopus
12:30 p.m. daily: Marine mammals
1 p.m. daily: Suki the elephant
1:30 p.m. daily: Clouded leopards
2:15 p.m. daily: Sea otters
3:30 p.m. daily: Muskoxen

While you're at the zoo, join a [botanical garden tour](#) with the zoo's horticulturist (10 a.m. Sunday). Plus, catch one of the final live animal shows of the season at the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater (daily 12 p.m. and 3 p.m.) and meet smaller animals up close during Critter Corner near the muskoxen exhibit (daily at 1:30 p.m.).

To learn more about the event, visit pdza.org.

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