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FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO WELCOMES NEW MASAI GIRAFFE

Fresno, CA – Fresno Chaffee Zoo officials are excited to welcome female Masai giraffe, Kiden. Animal care staff worked to introduce Kiden to her new home and the other giraffes. Guests can now see her on the savanna in African Adventure when they visit.

“Kiden is doing great and is exploring her surroundings. The zookeepers that worked with Kiden described her as being very confident around other giraffes, so we expect her to be comfortable and confident on the savannas once she settles in. We look forward to watching her develop her role in the herd,” said Lead Zookeeper Michele Green.

Earlier this year, reticulated giraffe Tsavo moved from Fresno Chaffee Zoo to Oakland Zoo to provide the giraffe herd there with a more robust and needed social structure. Through Tsavo’s move, the Zoo received a recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan (SSP) to welcome Kiden from Oregon Zoo. The SSP promotes genetic diversity in giraffes under human care. The Zoo is shifting its focus to Masai giraffes and bringing Kiden to the Zoo is part of that change.

“Our decision to focus on Masai giraffe was primarily at the request of the Species Survival Plan. Their population is smaller and less represented in US zoos and they are primarily housed at West Coast accredited zoos. Transitioning to Masai giraffes allows for more collaboration with our regional partners in supporting this species as well as safer, quicker moves between facilities.” said Lyn Myers, General Curator.

Kiden is three years old and weighs approximately 1,142 pounds. The Zoo is currently home to three other Masai giraffes: Betty Lou, Fenny, and Siku. The Zoo also has two reticulated giraffes: Jabari and Baba. Guests can get eye-to-eye with the entire herd at the Zoo’s giraffe feeding platform, Twiga Terrace. Guests can engage with and feed the giraffes, who act as ambassadors for their species to build appreciation and awareness about the conservation challenges they face in their natural habitat.

"Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires wonder of our natural world, provides an engaging learning environment, and creates a passion for conservation."

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