



Contact:

Emily Valdez
Senior Marketing Manager
Office: (559) 498-5926 ext. 5926
Mobile: 559-970-5921
evaldez@fresnochaffeezoo.org

For Immediate Release
September 30, 2023

FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO CELEBRATES SAFARI NIGHT

Fresno, CA – Safari Night, Fresno Chaffee Zoo’s annual benefit was held on Friday, September 29th. With almost 700 guests in attendance, it was the most successful Safari Night yet.

“It was a spectacular night where we celebrated all the Zoo has accomplished and built excitement for the first phase of our master plan, the California experience, Sierras to the Sea,” said Fresno Chaffee Zoo CEO and Director, Jon Forrest Dohlin. “We hope this experience will open visitors’ hearts to the true beauty and iconic wildlife of our beautiful state.”

Dohlin went on to announce that the Zoo aims to lead the effort to bring awareness to our state symbol, “Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the extinction of the California grizzly. Our team is currently planning to collaborate with accredited zoos and aquariums throughout the state to create public awareness through events, lectures, social media, and legislation with the hopes that this anniversary will honor something lost but also start the effort of finding ways for people and wildlife to thrive together.”

The night also celebrated the Zoo’s Centennial Campaign. This campaign celebrates the Zoo’s 100 years of service to the Central Valley from 1929 to 2029. Chairing the Centennial Campaign is Kyle Kirkland, Fresno Chaffee Zoo Board Chair.

“I am honored to lead the effort to celebrate our centennial,” said Kirkland. “As wonderful as Measure Z is, the Zoo’s continued success will only happen through a combination of Measure Z resources, earned income, and private fundraising. We will need all three to ensure that the Zoo remains a renowned and respected destination for learning and wonderment and a leader in conservation efforts for future generations.”

“Our Centennial Campaign allows everyone the exciting opportunity to show their support,” said Chief Advancement Officer, Terry Skoda. “I welcome anyone who is interested in learning more about how they can be a part of the Zoo’s master plan and Centennial Campaign to reach out to me at 559-498-5959 or giving@fresnochaffeezoo.org to learn more.”

Safari Night was presented by Community Care Health and Table Mountain Rancheria.

About Fresno Chaffee Zoo: Centrally located in Fresno, California, Fresno Chaffee Zoo is a 39-acre [Association of Zoos and Aquariums](#) (AZA) accredited zoo. It is home to over 200 different species and features WOW exhibits—from African Adventure to Kingdoms of Asia—that teach guests about animals all across the globe and the conservation efforts to protect them. The Zoo welcomes over 800,000 guests annually, offering a world-class guest experience and conservation education to all who visit. The mission of Fresno Chaffee Zoo is to inspire people to care for animals, create connections, build community, and save wildlife.

"Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires people to care for animals, create connections, build community, and save wildlife."

###