

MARCH APRIL MAY | 2016



Lincoln Children's

ZOOtracks

30 YEARS OF ENRICHING LIVES

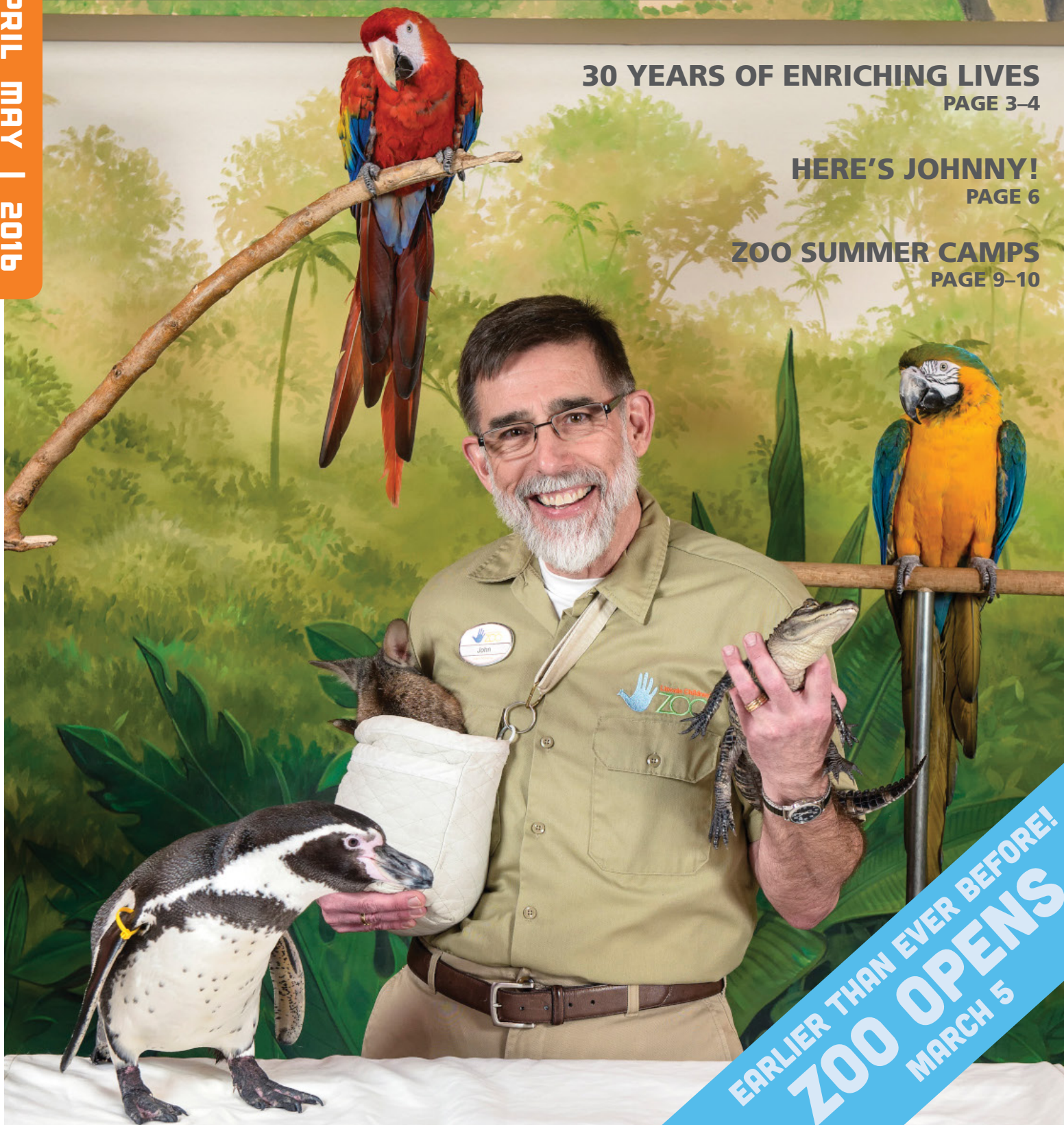
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HERE'S JOHNNY!

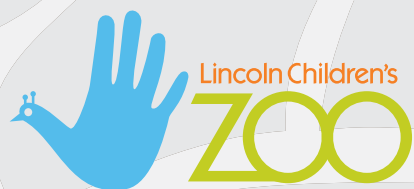
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ZOO SUMMER CAMPS

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EARLIER THAN EVER BEFORE!
ZOO OPENS
MARCH 5



Learn firsthand.

Lincoln Children's Zoo

1222 South 27th Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
402.475.6741

LincolnZoo.org

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Learn more at:

www.CommunityServicesFund.org



For information on planned giving and endowments, please contact Kristine Lemons at 402.475.6741 ext. 136.



MISSION: TO ENRICH LIVES THROUGH FIRSTHAND INTERACTION WITH LIVING THINGS.

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30 YEARS OF ENRICHING LIVES



BY RYAN GROSS

Since April 28, 1986, 4.5 million people have visited Lincoln Children's Zoo, 2 million riders have boarded the ZO&O Railroad, tens of thousands of volunteers have donated over 700,000 hours, 500,000 children and adults in need have received free Zoo admission and over 100,000 children have taken part in Zoo educational programs. And one man has overseen it all.

Even as a young boy growing up in South Bend, Indiana, John Chapo loved animals and zoos. Every Sunday night he would sit down to watch Mutual of Omaha's *Wild Kingdom* with Marlin Perkins. "I loved Sunday nights. I got to watch Marlin and Jim Fowler's adventures with animals from around the world," recalled Chapo. It was these early moments that inspired him to pursue a life of working with animals.

At the age of 15, Chapo began volunteering at his hometown zoo in South Bend. As a lover of turtles and tortoises the zoo had him care for these animals every Saturday when he showed up to volunteer. He eventually started working part-time at the zoo's concession stand and gift shop. It was also during this time, at the age of 16,

that he finally met his childhood hero, Marlin Perkins. After high school he enrolled at the University of Indiana. While attending college, he worked as a zookeeper at the South Bend Zoo. "The school was across the street from the zoo so I would bounce back and forth between learning and cleaning up after animals," he said.

It was after he graduated with a degree in Public and Environmental Affairs that his zoo career really took off. While at South Bend Zoo, he quickly moved up the ranks to lead zookeeper, then educator and eventually assistant director. "I actually took a pay cut to be promoted from keeper to assistant director, but I truly wanted to make that zoo better in animal care and connecting with the community," he said.

In 1984, at the age of 27 he became one of the youngest zoo directors in the country. "It was very exciting for me to become the director of my hometown zoo. My mom actually visited the zoo five days before I was born," said Chapo. However, within two years, he knew that he wanted a different challenge where there were more opportunities. A fellow zoo director told him about a cute little zoo in Lincoln, Nebraska, that needed a hardworking young man with energy.

It was in 1986 that Chapo left the Hoosier state for the Cornhusker State, where he would become the president of what was then called Folsom Children's Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Chapo was fortunate to have the opportunity to interview in

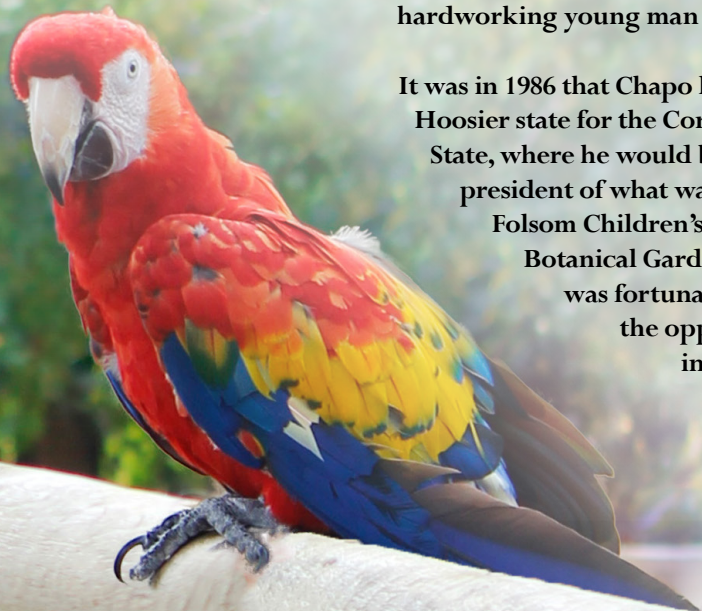
person on a windy and wet April day. He met the small team of zoo employees, toured the grounds and something told him that this was the place for him. He felt it in his heart.

Hired as the third director of the Zoo, Chapo's mindset was similar to the Zoo's first director, Arnott Folsom. Folsom was a man who understood the importance of both children and adults interacting with nature. In 1965, when Folsom opened Lincoln Children's Zoo, it was unlike most zoos in the nation. Zoo guests were what felt like a hand's reach away from nearly every animal. It wasn't only up-close interaction with animals that made the Zoo great; it was the abundant number of plants and trees that surrounded them. Chapo understood the importance of Folsom's vision for Lincoln Children's Zoo.

Over the years, Chapo oversaw the expansion of the Zoo and railroad, the addition of amazing animals and the increase of community outreach and support. Pages could be written about all he has done for Lincoln Children's Zoo, but the most impactful is how one man has continued the mission of Arnott Folsom: to enrich lives through firsthand interaction with living things.

John Chapo has been part of the Lincoln community for 30 years. He has been and will continue to be an instrumental part of changing people's lives every time they visit Lincoln Children's Zoo.

John would like to posthumously acknowledge his parents for encouraging his love of animals and for putting up with turtles under the bed, a caiman (South American crocodilian) in the basement and a mouflon in the dining room.



BUSH BABIES

BY SYDNEY NOONAN

What is a bush baby? It's the newest animal at Lincoln Children's Zoo! The Northern Greater Galago bush babies, Bear and Dohkani, also go by the nickname of "little night monkey."

Bush babies have amazing night vision that allows them to easily see in the dark. Their new home in the Animal Kingdom has very little light, which is great for bush babies. They use their night vision as well as other keen senses to feed on insects and fruit.

In the wild, bush babies can be found in South Africa, Somalia and sub-Saharan Africa. They live in a variety of habitats including rainforests, woodlands and bushlands.

To survive in their natural habitats, they use unique features and senses to protect themselves from predators. Predators of bush babies include snakes, owls and African wildcats.

Bear and Dohkani are incredibly swift and agile and use their large hind legs for jumping from branch to branch. Their elastic joints enable them to jump over six feet in the air. These amazing jumping abilities aid them in catching prey and keeping away from predators.

These cute creatures use their ears, fingers and toes as survival

tools. The thickened pads on their fingers and toes help them cling to branches to hide and avoid danger. The enormous ears of the bush baby are not only adorable, but are used to locate and catch prey.

The Zoo's bush babies can be found in Animal Kingdom. When visiting them, guests will notice the exhibit doesn't have any lights due to their nocturnal habits.



*PHOTO COPYRIGHT JOEL SARTORE / JOELSARTORE.COM

HERE'S JOHNNY!

BY KRISTIN MCCOUN

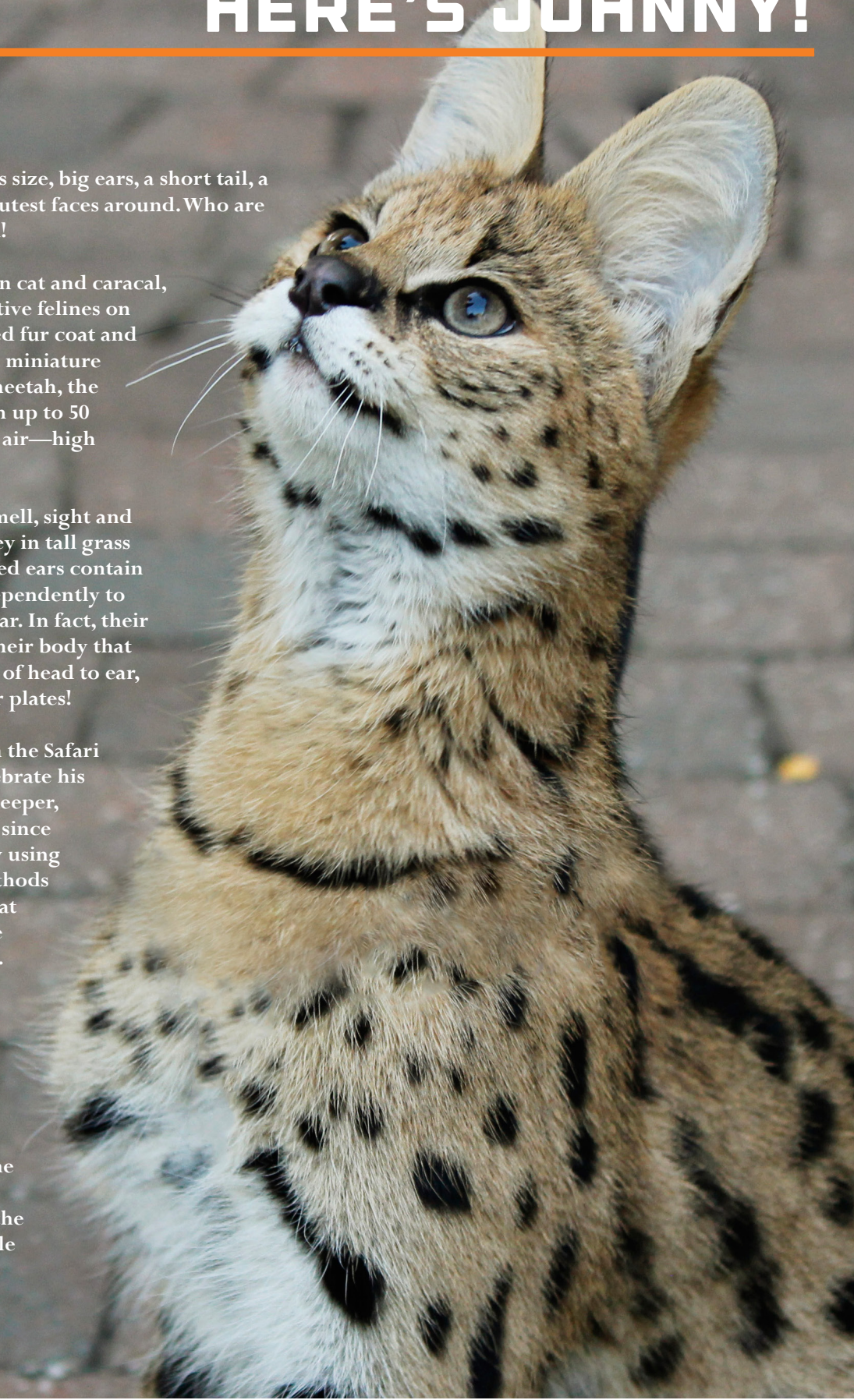
He has the longest legs of any cat his size, big ears, a short tail, a stretched out neck and one of the cutest faces around. Who are we talking about? Johnny the serval!

Closely related to the African golden cat and caracal, the serval is one of the most distinctive felines on the African continent. With a spotted fur coat and lean limbs, he takes on the look of a miniature cheetah. Although not as fast as a cheetah, the serval's long legs enable them to run up to 50 mph and jump over nine feet in the air—high enough to catch a bird mid-flight!

Servals have an excellent sense of smell, sight and hearing which help them detect prey in tall grass and underground. Their big, rounded ears contain 22 muscles each and can rotate independently to pinpoint when small animals are near. In fact, their ears are so large in comparison to their body that if humans had the same proportion of head to ear, our ears would be the size of dinner plates!

The Zoo's serval, Johnny, came from the Safari West Zoo in California and will celebrate his first birthday in May. Johnny's zookeeper, Emma Hazel, has been training him since his arrival in July. "We teach Johnny using positive reinforcement training methods and he is doing great. This means that when he does something we like, he gets something he likes," Hazel said. "He loves when we reward him with raw meatballs. It is one of his favorite treats!"

Johnny is being harness and leash trained so zookeepers will be able to bring him out into the Zoo for animal shows. "Be sure to stop by the Zoo for one of Johnny's shows this season. He is excited to meet all of the Zoo guests!" Hazel said. The schedule for animal shows can be found by visiting LincolnZoo.org.





FASCINATING FACTS

- CAN LEAP OVER 9 FEET INTO THE AIR
- 22 MUSCLES IN EACH EAR
- CAN RUN UP TO 50 MPH

hello
my name is

Johnny
(the serval)



COLLECTIBLE POSTER



3-4 YEAR-OLDS + PARENTS
\$89 MEMBERS | \$104 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.	
June 6 - 10	NEW! Barnyard Buddies
June 13 - 17	Wake Up the Train
June 20 - 24	Playful Penguins & Friends
June 27 - July 1	Wake Up the Train

4-5 YEAR-OLDS

\$109 MEMBERS | \$129 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A.M. - NOON		AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.	
May 31 - June 3	NEW! Train Explorer* SOLD OUT	May 31 - June 3	NEW! Wildlife Explorer*
June 6 - 10	Dino Dig SOLD OUT	June 6 - 10	NEW! Jungle Adventurers
June 13 - 17	Wake Up the Train	June 13 - 17	NEW! Littlest Zookeepers SOLD OUT
June 20 - 24	Zoo Action Heroes SOLD OUT	June 20 - 24	NEW! Meet the Beasts
June 27 - July 1	NEW! Littlest Zookeepers SOLD OUT	June 27 - July 1	NEW! Jungle Adventurers
July 5 - 8	NEW! Train Explorer*	July 5 - 8	NEW! Zoo Ranger Explorer*
July 11 - 15	Wake Up the Train	July 11 - 15	Penguins Have Happy Feet
July 18 - 22	Dino Dig	July 18 - 22	Zoo Rangers
July 25 - 29	Wake Up the Train	July 25 - 29	Zoo Action Heroes
August 1 - 5	NEW! Littlest Zookeepers SOLD OUT	August 1 - 5	Penguin Plunge
*PARTIAL WEEK CAMPS \$89 MEMBERS \$109 NON-MEMBERS			
SIGN UP FOR A MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSION TO MAKE IT A FULL-DAY CAMP			



ZOO CAMPS

Camp Check-in:

Morning: 8:10 - 8:25 a.m. | Afternoon: 12:40 - 12:55 p.m. | Full Day: 8:10 - 8:25 a.m.

Each day campers will explore animal habitats, talk with real zookeepers, study animal behaviors and take part in fun, educational activities. Zoo Camps are led by skilled instructors who will guide your child through interactive learning opportunities and behind-the-scenes tours.



6-7 YEAR-OLDS

\$109 MEMBERS | \$129 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A.M. - NOON		AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.	
May 31 - June 3	NEW! Zookeeper Explorer*	May 31 - June 3	NEW! Wilderness Explorer*
June 6 - 10	Critter Keepers	June 6 - 10	Go Wild!
			Undercover Animals
June 13 - 17	Wild West Wrangler	June 13 - 17	NEW! Photo Safari
			NEW! Animal Outlaws
June 20 - 24	Critter Keepers SOLD OUT	June 20 - 24	Animal Planet
			Penguin Plunge
June 27 - July 1	Paws, Claws & Jaws	June 27 - July 1	Go Wild!
			Critter Keepers
July 5 - 8	NEW! Outback Explorer*	July 5 - 8	NEW! Wilderness Explorer*
	NEW! Zookeeper Explorer*		NEW! Vet Explorer* SOLD OUT
July 11 - 15	Wild West Wrangler	July 11 - 15	Paws, Claws & Jaws
	Go Wild!		Penguin Plunge
July 18 - 22	Wild West Wrangler	July 18 - 22	NEW! Photo Safari
July 25 - 29	Animal Planet	July 25 - 29	Undercover Animals
	Wild West Wrangler		NEW! Photo Safari
August 1 - 5	Critter Keepers	August 1 - 5	Catch Me If You Can
	Wild West Wrangler		Go Wild!
*PARTIAL WEEK CAMPS \$89 MEMBERS \$109 NON-MEMBERS			
SIGN UP FOR A MORNING & AFTERNOON SESSION TO MAKE IT A FULL-DAY CAMP			

8-10 YEAR-OLDS

\$218 MEMBERS | \$258 NON-MEMBERS

FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.			
May 31 - June 3	NEW! Jr. Vet Explorer*	July 11 - 15	Jr. Zookeeper
	NEW! Jr. Wrangler* SOLD OUT		Wildlife Rescuers
June 6 - 10	Jr. Zoo Vet	July 18 - 22	Jr. Zookeeper
June 13 - 17	Animal Training 101		Animal Training 101
June 20 - 24	Jr. Zookeeper	July 25 - 29	Jr. Zookeeper
June 27 - July 1	Wildlife Rescuers		Jr. Zoo Vet
July 5 - 8	NEW! Jr. Wrangler*	August 1 - 5	Wildlife Rescuers
			Jr. Zoo Vet
*PARTIAL WEEK CAMPS \$178 MEMBERS \$218 NON-MEMBERS			

10-12 YEAR-OLDS

\$218 MEMBERS | \$258 NON-MEMBERS

FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.			
May 31 - June 3	NEW! Vet Explorer*	July 5 - 8	NEW! Zoologist Explorer*
June 6 - 10	Jr. Zookeeper	July 11 - 15	Zoo Vets
June 13 - 17	Zoo Vets	July 18 - 22	NEW! Wild About Art
June 20 - 24	Jr. Zoologist	July 25 - 29	Jr. Zoologist
June 27 - July 1	NEW! Wild About Art	August 1 - 5	NEW! Wild About Art
*PARTIAL WEEK CAMPS \$178 MEMBERS \$218 NON-MEMBERS			



Space is limited! See camp descriptions & register at LincolnZoo.org.

MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

FROM TORTOISE TREK TO ECUADOR

BY RYAN GROSS

In September of 2015, Tortoise Trek, a new Galapagos tortoise and macaw habitat, opened at Lincoln Children's Zoo. The new habitat is home to the Galapagos Tortoise Conservation Center, where the tortoises and macaws can live year-round in an environmentally controlled facility. This specially built habitat is one of the finest homes for Galapagos tortoises in the country. Tortoise Trek is part of the Zoo's mission to help save endangered species while giving children and adults a firsthand opportunity to experience and interact with amazing animals.

This summer the Zoo will make a difference beyond the borders of Tortoise Trek by traveling to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador to take part in conservation efforts. The trip is part of a program called Adventures by Lincoln Children's Zoo, which gives teenagers an opportunity to travel around the world taking part in conservation efforts and learning through hands-on educational experiences.

While working on Tortoise Trek, Zoo staff concluded the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador would be the perfect destination for the next Adventures trip. In 2014, Zoo president & CEO, John Chapo, led a trip of adults to the Galapagos Islands. Chapo spoke with education director, Aimee Johns, and she agreed. "I think the islands and Ecuador are exceptional

destinations for the Adventures program. The natural wildlife they will encounter and the conservation efforts they will take part in are a once in a lifetime experience," Chapo said.

Since its creation in 2012, Adventures by Lincoln Children's Zoo's goal has been to take the Zoo experience to a global level. The program has sent youth to Costa Rica and Belize where they saved sea turtles, tapirs and researched marine life and also Florida, where they worked in a marine biology center. "Here at the Zoo we do some amazing work when it comes to saving endangered animals. However, with Adventures, the Zoo is empowering youth to truly help save endangered species in their natural habitats. These youth discover that they can make a difference through helping wild animals and wild places.



They can and do make an impact in the world. Now that's powerful," Chapo said.

The trip will include conservation work at Galapagos National Park, hikes through the Amazon jungle, bike tours of the Andes Mountains, snorkeling and whitewater rafting. The group will also be immersed into the culture by spending time with the indigenous people of Ecuador. "We want to give teenagers an opportunity they can't get anywhere else, an opportunity to experience nature and the world in a way that few ever get. That is what we at Lincoln Children's Zoo are about.

More information about Adventures by Lincoln Children's Zoo can be found by visiting LincolnZoo.org.



HAVE YOUR AT THE BIRTHDAY **ZOO!**



- Admission for the entire day
*Party packages are for up to 14 guests.
Additional guests are \$12.50 per person*
- 1 hr. party in the Safari Room
or Crooked House
- Unlimited train rides for the day
- A critter visit of your choice and
chat presented by our
Critter Encounter specialists
- Special birthday present from the Zoo
- Two pitchers of soda, lemonade
or fruit punch
- Ice cream sundae bar
- Zoo welcome sign for birthday child
- Zoo wagon to transport gifts
- Members receive 10% off



Ultimate Party | \$175
Valued at \$300



Reserve Your Party!
at LincolnZoo.org or call 402.475.6741

RENT THE ZOO

Customize your next event with
unlimited train rides, private
animal shows, unlimited horse
rides, behind-the-scenes tours,
up-close animal encounters
and more!



ZOO CALENDAR

WE WILL SEE YOU AT THE ZOO

MARCH

SAT 5 ZOO OPENS

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

The Zoo will open for LPS Spring Break and then each weekend in March. The Zoo will open with regular hours and days starting April 1. March Open Dates: March 5 – 13 | March 19 – 20 | March 26 – 27.

SAT 26 BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

8 – 10 a.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

This event includes a breakfast buffet, Easter egg hunt, photo time with the Easter Bunny, activities and special animal meet and greets. Tickets are limited. Tickets are available for purchase at LincolnZoo.org

APRIL

FRI 22 EARTH DAY & PARTY FOR THE PLANET

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Celebrate Earth Day at the Zoo! Say hello to your favorite animal friends and watch a show on the Animal Encounter Stage.



MAY

SUN 8 MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Make memories with Mom at the Zoo this Mother's Day! All moms receive one free train or free admission.

SAT 14 RUNZA'S JAMMIN AT THE ZOO

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

The Zoo is teaming up with Runza to bring you a day full of music, animals, and some of your child's favorite books! Stop by and enjoy a live music by Mike Mennard and stick around to listen to stories read by local heroes and celebrities!



FRI 20 ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Visit all of the endangered species that call the Zoo home!



SAT 21 ZOO FUN RUN

10 a.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

It's the wildest kids race in town! This FREE, one-mile race starts at 10 a.m. and all runners receive a free train ride. Have lunch at the Safari Café and stay to go inside a real fire truck, police car and other great surprises. Visit LincolnZoo.org for registration information. This race is organized by Lincoln Fire and Rescue.

SAT 21 ANIMALS GOT TALENT!

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

Visit all of your animal friends and learn about each of their special talents. Then cast your vote for your favorite! The Zoo will have special shows at the animal encounter stage showcasing some of our most talented animals!

MON 30 MEMORIAL DAY OPEN!

10 a.m. – 5 p.m. | Lincoln Children's Zoo

The Zoo is open all weekend! Come visit all of your favorite animals and join us for the 2016 season opening of Laura's Butterfly Pavilion! Check out over 150 butterflies at one of the Zoo's most popular summer stops.



BECOME A MEMBER SAVE BIG!



FOR ONE SMALL FEE, YOUR
YEAR IS FREE!

FREE

- Unlimited admission
- Entry to Boo at the Zoo
- Exclusive Member Extra Hours
- Zootracks magazine mailed subscription
- Sept-Member freebies postcard

SAVE BIG

- Discounted tickets to all "Breakfast" events
- Lower priced registration for Zoo Camps
- Lower priced registration for Tots & Turtles
- Special prices on birthday parties

PLUS!

- **New for 2016!** Exclusive access to North Pole Express tickets
- Discounted or free admission to nearly 200 zoos and aquariums nationwide (including zoos in Omaha, Kansas City, and Des Moines)



LincolnZoo.org

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