

Bats, Bugs and Busting Myths, Oh My!

Woodland Park Zoo Experts Available to Bust Misleading Myths About Bats and Bugs



WHAT: Ahead of Bat Week, October 24-31, the media is invited to an interview and photo opportunity at Woodland Park Zoo, as the zoo demystifies some commonly misunderstood creatures that take center stage during Halloween. A bug expert will be available to demystify the so-called creepy crawlers that get a bad rap this time of year and share how bugs are crucial to our everyday lives. A bat expert will also be available to debunk the many falsehoods spread about these nocturnal mammals during spooky season.

WHEN: **Monday, October 23, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**

WHERE: Woodland Park Zoo's newly renovated Bug World. Meet PR staff at the West Entrance at Phinney Ave. N. between N. 55th & N. 56th Sts. Park in the Otter Lot off N. 59th St. & Phinney Ave. N.

INFO: Insects (commonly referred to as “bugs”) outnumber people 1.4 billion to one and are critical to our survival. They play important roles in the ecosystems we share by pollinating plants, adding nutrients to the soil, balancing bug populations and more. With threats such as climate change and habitat loss impacting bug populations, bugs need our help.

Insects are the planet's most efficient decomposers, breaking down everything from carcasses to dung to fallen logs—they're nature's recyclers! They control weeds, kill crop pests, and are powerful pollinators when it comes to crops and other flowering plants.

Learn how to discover, recover and coexist with pollinators by visiting www.zoo.org/nw/pollinators.

Washington state is home to 14 bat species, 10 of which can be found statewide; four occur only in Eastern Washington. All Wash. bats are insectivores, meaning they feed on insects.

Bats are one of the most diverse groups of mammals in the animal kingdom and are essential to ecosystems as pollinators, seed dispersers and pest controllers. Their nocturnal nature makes them a bit more mysterious than other creatures, and they often don't get the credit they deserve.

Bat populations face many threats here in Washington and around the world, including habitat destruction, disease, wind turbine disruption and climate change.

To learn more about bats and the efforts to save the species, visit www.zoo.org/batconservation.

Zoo hours: 9:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily.

Accessibility: Information about accessibility and resources, one-to-one aides, sighted guides, mobility equipment rentals, and a sensory map and tools can be found at www.zoo.org/access. For questions or to request disability accommodations for zoo programs or events, contact zooinfo@zoo.org.

For more information or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org or call 206.548.2500. Follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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