

Woodland Park Zoo celebrates 125 years by surprising honorary 1.25 millionth visitor of 2024

SEATTLE—To mark its 125th anniversary, Woodland Park Zoo surprised a special guest today with a gift pack and extraordinary experiences to celebrate 1.25 million visitors in 2024!

A century and a quarter ago, the widow of Guy C. Phinney sold his sprawling, private estate to the City of Seattle for \$100,000. The land, woods, and lakefront came with a small group of animals and became the lush oasis it is today, Woodland Park Zoo.

Based on 2024 visitation and advance ticket sales for the remainder of December, the zoo expects to welcome 1.25 million guests by the new year. Zoo staff picked a date and time for the celebration, and the unsuspecting visitor, Chantel Frizzell and her family, got the surprise of the year when they entered the zoo today and staff informed them of their fortuitous arrival.

Frizzell, of Seattle, was visiting the zoo today with her daughters, stepson and his partner and their daughter. “We have been members of Woodland Park Zoo for years since my kids were small,” said Frizzell. “Our favorite places in the zoo over the years have included Zoomazium, the penguins, Komodo dragons and Tropical Rain Forest birds.”

As the honorary 1.25 millionth visitor of the year, the holidays came early for the family as they were showered with a number of zoo gifts and experiences including:

- A \$125 Woodland Park Zoo gift card
- A delightful behind-the-scenes giraffe encounter
- A footprint of a Woodland Park Zoo lion
- Tickets to WildLanterns
- Tickets to the 2025 ZooTunes concert of their choice
- Passes for the Historic Carousel
- 100th Anniversary Woodland Park Rose Garden ornament

Over 125 years, Woodland Park Zoo has grown into a world-renowned conservation organization dedicated to exemplary animal care and community engagement. A living classroom, the zoo is home to more than 800 animals representing 200 species. Today the zoo is a major regional attraction, drawing more than 1 million people each year, embarking on a journey that inspires a lifelong love of animals, makes science come alive and gives people the tools to take conservation action.

Winter 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. ADA ramp access for Historic Carousel. For questions or to request disability accommodations for zoo programs or events, contact zooinfo@zoo.org.

To learn more about Woodland Park Zoo or to become a zoo member, visit www.zoo.org and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [TikTok](#).

###

