

NEWS RELEASE



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CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY WITH THE ZOO

NORFOLK, Va. – The Virginia Zoo is celebrating Father's Day with discounts in the Zoo gift shop and free train rides for dads on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15, 2014.

"Fathers play a key role in providing for, protecting and educating the young in many animal species, and in human families, as well," said Greg Bockheim, the Virginia Zoo's executive director. "These discounts are our way of honoring fathers for everything they do."

Fathers who bring proof of fatherhood -- a child of any age -- can enjoy discounts at the Zoo gift shop of 20 percent for Zoo members and 10 percent for nonmembers, and a free train ride, too! Regular Zoo admission applies.

The Zoo gift shop features gifts for every animal lover, including animal-themed clothing, toy vehicles and action figures, books, travel mugs and more.

The Zoo train, formally known as the Norfolk Southern Express, is a one-third scale model of a C.P. Huntington steam engine. It runs daily during the summer season, and can accommodate more than 80 passengers and wheelchairs. Tokens can be purchased at the Zoo ticket booth, or at the Beazley Foundation Train Station, which is located near the Zoo's fountain plaza. The three-quarter mile-long journey includes live narration from the train engineer about the Zoo and its collection of plants and animals.

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FATHER'S DAY AT THE ZOO



Doting daddy Boris, a male cassowary, with his chick Hallager at the Virginia Zoo shortly after he hatched, June 11, 2013 (Virginia Zoo photo by Wyn Hall). Cassowary fathers incubate the eggs and care for the young after they hatch. Human fathers get a discount at the Zoo gift shop and a free train ride on Father's Day, Sunday, June 15, 2014.

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As an accredited Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facility, the Virginia Zoo exhibits more than 400 animals on 53 beautifully landscaped acres. For more than a century, the Virginia Zoo has demonstrated a commitment to education and conservation, and offered a fun-filled day for visitors of any age. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and located at 3500 Granby Street in Norfolk. Daily admission prices are \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors (age 62 and over) and \$9 for children ages 2-11. Children under 2 receive FREE admission! Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.