

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **VIRGINIA ZOO THROWS PARTY FOR THE PLANET**

NORFOLK, Va. – The Virginia Zoo is hosting a Party for the Planet Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and everyone's invited!

"It's a celebration of Earth Day and the animals that share our environment," said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo's executive director. "It'll bring out your wild side while you learn about conservation steps you can take to protect natural habitats locally and around the world."

As part of the event, zookeepers will demonstrate animal enrichment activities used to promote the Zoo animals' social, mental and physical health and wellbeing. Visitors can play like a monkey with the enrichment items we give animals from otters to giraffes. Environmental experts will also provide information on the effect all life – including humans – has on the environment, the lives of other species and our lives, too.

All activities are included with regular Zoo admission: \$11 for adults, \$10 for seniors (age 62 and over) and \$9 for children ages 2-11. Zoo members and children under 2 admitted free! More information is available at [www.virginiazoo.org](http://www.virginiazoo.org).

- more -

## ZOO PARTY FOR THE PLANET, 2 OF 2



**A boy shares a close encounter with a swimming Malayan tiger at the Virginia Zoo during last year's Party for the Planet event April 21, 2012 (Virginia Zoo photo by David Totten).**

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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. Visit [www.virginiazoo.org](http://www.virginiazoo.org) or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.*