

NEWS RELEASE



Contact: Winfield S. Danielson III
Marketing and PR Manager
Office: (757) 441-2374 ext. 223
Cell: (757) 777-7899
Email: winfield.danielson@norfolk.gov

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EVENING TOURS AT THE ZOO

NORFOLK, Va. – The Virginia Zoo will host new evening tours on Wednesday, July 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday, August 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

“Guests will feel as if they have the Zoo all to themselves, and they’ll find out how the animals act when no one else is around,” said Allyson Zahm, the Zoo’s education manager. She added that only 50 lucky guests will be admitted to the Zoo for each of the evening tours.

The fast-paced, after-hours guided walking tour of the Zoo will allow guests to observe animal behaviors not commonly seen during the daytime. The rhinoceros, kangaroos and tapir, for example, are usually more active in the evening. Although not every animal is out at night, knowledgeable guides will showcase nocturnal animals often overlooked during the day.

“The tours are a particularly great time to see Alfred, our African white rhino, since he often goes out into the plains habitat at night,” noted Zahm. At 45 years old, Alfred is one of the two oldest mammals at the Zoo. White rhinos are actually light gray and can weigh between 4,500 and 6,000 pounds. They are herbivores that can often be found grazing savanna grasses, which their short legs and long heads allow them to reach with ease.

Tour fees are \$15 for Zoo members and \$20 for non-members. Online reservations at www.virginiazoo.org are required, and registration closes at 3 p.m. the day of the tour. For more information, guests can contact the Zoo’s Education Department at 757-441-2374 ext. 229 or judy.totten@norfolk.gov.

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Alfred, the Virginia Zoo's African white rhinoceros, is among animals at the Zoo that are more active at night. The Virginia Zoo will host new evening tours on Wednesday, July 24, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday, August 28, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson).

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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 admitted free! Visit www.virginiazoo.org or call (757) 441-2374 for more information.