

# 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 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for visitors to learn how they can help preserve our environment locally, and what zoos and aquariums are doing to support conservation efforts worldwide,” said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo’s executive director. “It’s the largest combined Earth Day celebration in North America; more than 130 zoos and aquariums are participating.”

On Earth Day, April 22, and throughout April, Association of Zoos and Aquariums-accredited facilities across North America will host events to raise awareness about conservation, sustainable living and making our Earth a better place for all life forms. AZA-accredited institutions spend \$160 million annually in more than 100 countries on conservation projects, and have supported more than 1,000 field conservation and research projects over the past five years.

At the Virginia Zoo event April 19, activities will include live animal presentations; zookeeper demonstrations of animal enrichment activities used to promote the Zoo animals' wellbeing; games and crafts; and presentations by environmental experts on the effect all life – including humans – has on the environment, the lives of other species and human 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).

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## ZOO PARTY FOR THE PLANET, 2 OF 2



**“Dad, you’re missing the party!” – Lola, a baby siamang, tries to get her parents’ attention at the Virginia Zoo during last year’s Party for the Planet event April 20, 2013. Lola, her father Bali and mother Hitam will attend this year’s Party for the Planet as well, at the Virginia Zoo Saturday, April 19, 2014 (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.*