



NEWS RELEASE

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“DISCOVER THE ZOO” FAMILY FUN AT “DISCOVERY PAVILION” OPENING ON SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 11 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

- “Fun Hunt” in Zoo and Discovery Pavilion – Prizes
- Animal Kitchen Now Open for Public Viewing
- New 25-Foot California Condor Climbing Wall Debuts
- Electric Ride-on “Animals on the Move,” Creepy Crawly Encounters, and Duncan the T. Rex, Louie the Lemur and Gene the Giraffe
- New \$7.5 Million Building Serves Zoo’s Award-winning Education Programs, Including Zoo Camp, and New Adult Programs

Santa Barbara, CA, March 7, 2014 – The Santa Barbara Zoo celebrates the opening of its new \$7.5 million Discovery Pavilion education center on Saturday, March 22 with special family fun “Discover the Zoo” activities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many activities are free with admission. For more information, visit www.sbzoo.org.

“This is a terrific way for us to say ‘thank you’ to the community, businesses, foundations and Zoo Members who made this building possible,” said Zoo CEO Rich Block. “Discovery Pavilion is the fulfilment of our long-held dream to have a dedicated space for our many educational activities, and to be able to expand our offerings for both children and adults.”

Events on March 22 Opening Day

Most activities are free with admission; additional fees noted.

As part of the celebration, guests of all ages can embark on a free **“Fun Hunt”** to complete of up to a dozen activities in the Discovery Pavilion and throughout the Zoo, including comparing their “wingspan” to that of a California condor, measuring out animal diets, making

Inca tern “moustache masks,” learning fun-facts about Amur leopards, and much more. Prizes include animal encounters, train rides and giraffe feedings.

The Zoo’s **Animal Kitchen** is on view to the public daily during regular Zoo hours through a large window in Discovery Pavilion. An AV system allows guests to ask questions and to hear Zoo presentations by kitchen staff about creating healthy and balanced meals for the Zoo’s animals.

A new gallery space, the **Volentine Family Gallery**, displays changing exhibits relating to the natural world, and is open during regular Zoo hours. The first exhibit, “Islands of Change” features images by two well-known local nature photographers: Ralph Clevenger, shooting at the Channel Islands, Mike Verbois, who photographed at the Galapagos.



The Zoo’s new **Condor Climbing Wall** offers a 25-foot climb with a surprise at the top – a California condor chick! Located near California Trails, this workout is for kids weighing 45 pounds or more. Cost: \$5 per person.

Free **Creepy Crawly Encounters** are held inside Discovery Pavilion classroom at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. in honor of opening day.

Electric ride-on **Animals on the Move** were such a hit at the Snow Leopard Festival that they are back and available for rides in front of Discovery Pavilion. Cost: \$3.

Duncan the T Rex, Louie the Lemur, and Gene the Giraffe all make appearances at Discovery Pavilion throughout the day.

Mystery Pics offer special photo packages, **face-painters** adorn young and old alike, and there’s much more.

About Discovery Pavilion

Discovery Pavilion serves as the hub of the Zoo’s many education programs, including the award-winning Zoo Camp, and also overnight Zoo Snoozes, school field trips, keeper talks, and new offerings including a pilot program for local homeschoolers, and after-hours and overnight Safaris for kids.

New programming for adults includes evening “At the Watering Hole” talks by experts in conservation and the natural world, debuting Friday March 21 (full schedule and ticket information at www.sbzoo.org).

At the heart of Discovery Pavilion is 2,300 square feet of open space which can be configured into two classrooms, both with independent AV capabilities. The Animal Kitchen has been relocated into Discovery Pavilion, and is open to the public for observation during regular Zoo hours. A new gallery features changing exhibitions that relate to the natural world.

Behind the scenes are a new volunteer lounge and library; a research library open by appointment only; staff locker room; and offices for the Zoo's education, conservation and research, human resources, and other staff.

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*Known as one of the world's most beautiful zoos, the **Santa Barbara Zoo** is located on 30 acres of botanic gardens and is home to nearly 500 individual animals in open, naturalistic habitats. It is accredited by the [Association of Zoos & Aquariums](#) (AZA), representing the highest level of animal care, and participates in AZA endangered species programs for Asian elephant, California condor, Channel Island fox, and Western lowland gorilla, among others. A private 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, the Santa Barbara Zoo depends on community support, not tax dollars, for operations and improvements.*

The Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; general admission is \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors aged 65+, \$10 for children 2-12, and children under 2 are free. Parking is \$6.

Visit www.sbzoo.org.

