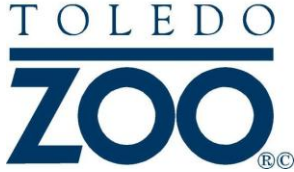




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Zoo to Host Conference on Tourism and Summer Fun Expo

Toledo, Ohio—The warmer weather gives families an opportunity to see the many area sights, and the 2nd annual **Summer Fun Expo** will celebrate all that this region has to offer! **Monday, May 17**, The Toledo Zoo will once again host over 70 area attractions, hotels, restaurants and other businesses as part of the Summer Fun Expo, presented by Destination Toledo. These organizations will share information about their plans for the upcoming season and even features some cool giveaways. Join the fun—**admission to the Zoo is free from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.!**

From 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Destination Toledo will present the Commissioner's Conference on Tourism, which celebrates the tourism industry's impact on the local economy. HLN anchor Christi Paul, a University of Toledo graduate, will serve as guest speaker, and awards will be given to individuals whose dedication to tourism has increased the region's profile. Following the Summer Fun Expo, tourism expert Bill Geist will address the crowd at an exhibitors' reception from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

According to the Ohio Department of Development, tourism in Northwest Ohio employs 63,000 workers and brought in \$4.7 billion in sales and \$1.3 billion in wages. Destination Toledo (formerly the Greater Toledo Convention and Visitors Bureau) is a driving force behind the tourism experience in Northwest Ohio.

The Toledo Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends in May) and is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information, please visit www.toledozoo.org or call (419) 385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge each Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. ID showing proof of residency is required.

The Toledo Zoo is committed to inspiring others to join in caring for animals and conserving the natural world. As part of that mission, The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a leader in global wildlife conservation. AZA member institutions are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and a better future for all living things.

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