



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** May 24, 2017

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*Note: Toledo Zoo's assistant director of animal programs and Polar bear SSP coordinator, Randi Meyerson will be available for interviews today from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to the Communication Team.*

## **Hope, the Polar Bear to be Transferred**

TOLEDO, Ohio — Robert Kennedy once said: “The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better.” Together, with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan and Utah’s Hogle Zoo, the Toledo Zoo is working to better the captive population of polar bears. This fall, two Ohio natives will take up residence in the Beehive State as Toledo-born female polar bear, Hope, will join Columbus-born female polar bear, Nora, on exhibit at Hogle Zoo in Salt Lake City.

Hope was born on December 3, 2015 to parents, Crystal and Marty. She was named after Point Hope, Alaska part of the known polar bear range and to represent optimism for the future of the endangered species. She is the seventh polar bear cub born at the Toledo Zoo since 2006. She will be joining Nora, who was born on November 6, 2015 at the Columbus Zoo and hand-reared by staff.

“The SSP recommended this move to create companionship for both Hope and Nora, as they come of age where in the wild they would set out on their own. It is important for Nora, who was hand-reared to interact with other polar bears and Hope was chosen as they are about the same age and can develop and grow together. It really is the perfect pairing for both the animals and the future of the AZA polar bear collection,” said Dr. Randi Meyerson, Polar Bear SSP coordinator and Toledo Zoo’s assistant director of animal programs.

“In her almost two years, Hope has been a great ambassador for her endangered species and become much beloved by the Toledo Zoo community. While we appreciate our guests’ emotional bonds to our animals, we aim to educate our supporters about the mission and processes of Species Survival Plans to aid in understanding that moves like this help to ensure a bright future for all polar bears. We look forward to the community coming out this summer to see Hope and wish her well on her important journey,” said Shayla Bell Moriarty, Toledo Zoo’s director of communication.

Hope will continue to be on exhibit in the Toledo Zoo’s Arctic Encounter through the summer season. From Memorial Day to Labor Day the Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tickets and more information can be found at [toledozoo.org](http://toledozoo.org).

The Zoo is open daily at 10 a.m. and is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information, please visit [toledozoo.org](http://toledozoo.org) or call 419-385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge on non-holiday Mondays from 10 a.m. - noon. Valid ID showing proof of residency is required.

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