



## GET SPOOKY: ANIMALS, PUMPKINS AND COSTUMES!

*Pumpkin enrichment, scavenger hunts and mysteries galore*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Oct. 2, 2020

TACOMA, Wash.—It's time to have some spooky fun while staying safe at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. Both zoos are getting in the fall spirit, with pumpkin enrichment for animals and costumes encouraged for everyone in October! Whether you want to visit the Zoo or Northwest Trek in person or join in on the festivities online, we're here to help you have a healthy and enjoyable Halloween.

### **Haunted Hike**

When: Fri.-Sun., Oct. 16-Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Where: Northwest Trek Wildlife Park

What: Let's get wild! We're decorating the wildlife park! Guests are encouraged to wear their favorite costume and wander past magical lights, eerie spider webs and pumpkins everywhere. Even the animals will be given pumpkins to play with and chomp on at various times (these won't be scheduled to prevent congestion). There will also be a scavenger hunt for guests to solve the mystery of the forest! Is it ghosts? Goblins? Bigfoot? Walk the paths and find out. Guests who listen closely may even hear the howling of wolves or the haunting noises of [elk rut](#). An added bonus: [Kids' Trek](#) is now reopen! Let your kids slide, climb, jump, explore or scream ("Boo! Got you!") their way through the nature-inspired playground.

"We understand that Halloween looks a little different for everyone this year, and we know safety is a big concern for many families," said Education Curator Jessica Moore. "We are excited to offer Haunted Hike as a fun, interactive way to help our guests enjoy Halloween and still feel safe."

Guests are encouraged to wear family-friendly costumes (but remember, face coverings are still required!)

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership.

Learn more at: <https://www.nwtrek.org/event/haunted-hike/>

### **Pumpkin Days**

When: Thurs.-Mon., Oct. 24-Oct. 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Where: Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

What:

- The animals at the Zoo love pumpkins! Keepers will give them unscheduled enrichments all week long.

- Staff will compete to see who can decorate the best pumpkin-themed exhibit, so be sure to vote on your favorite area!
- Come solve the Mystery of the Trees. Use your phone to follow the online scavenger hunt clues to discover which animal cutouts are “hiding” in the trees.
- Guests are encouraged to wear family-friendly costumes (but remember, your face coverings are still required!)

Cost: Free with paid admission or membership to the Zoo.

Learn more at: <https://www.pdza.org/event/pumpkin-days/>

“We hope our guests will enjoy the festive fall and Halloween decorations as they safely explore our animal habitats, solving mysteries and learning about how we can protect the world’s wildlife,” said Conservation Engagement Curator Wendy Spaulding.

### **Creatures of the Night- A Live Virtual Halloween Celebration**

When: Oct. 31 at 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Where: Virtual- Zoom

What: Meet spooky-cool animals, live with their caretakers! Discover how bats, snakes and owls thrive in darkness with all of the features that make these creatures of the night so super special. Guests are encouraged to wear costumes and ask Zoo staff questions.

Cost: This is a free event, but there is limited space so guests are required to register in advance, one registration per device.

Learn more at: <https://www.pdza.org/event/creatures-of-the-night/>

### **October Animal Shoutouts**

When: All month long!

What: Book an Animal Shoutout from one of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium’s fall-inspired species! Shoutouts featuring these animals are only available in October, so book them while you can! Send a friend, family member, coworker or special loved one a message of your choice from a keeper with the help of either an Indian fruit bat, Eurasian eagle-owl, Chilean rose tarantula, green tree python, sand boa or Herald the dog in costume!

Cost: \$50 per shoutout

Learn more at: <https://www.pdza.org/discover/animal-shoutouts/>

### **Enhanced Safety Protocols**

Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium and Northwest Trek Wildlife Park are following all public health and safety guidelines for Phase 2 of Gov. Jay Inslee’s Safe Start plan. Hand sanitizing stations are placed throughout the parks. Face coverings are required for anyone 5 and over. According to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, costume masks do not substitute for protective face coverings made of two layers of cloth.

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### **Contact**

Whitney DalBalcon: 253-278-6343 or [whitney.dalbalcon@pdza.org](mailto:whitney.dalbalcon@pdza.org)

Tessa LaVergne: 253-686-6927, or [tessa.lavergne@pdza.org](mailto:tessa.lavergne@pdza.org)