

# Oregon Zoo has many unusual holiday gifts

In the hunt for truly distinctive holiday gifts, look no further than the Oregon Zoo. Offering many unique and eco-friendly gifts, each purchase helps the zoo raise funds for its conservation programs and environmental education efforts.

Forget the fruitcake and sponsor an animal for that special someone this holiday season. Whether the apple of your eye walks, swims, hops, crawls or flies, here's the perfect way to learn more about the habits and habitats of nearly 100 species of exotic animals through the ZooParents sponsorship program.

Starting at \$25, the sponsoring "parent" receives a personalized certificate, animal fact sheet and a one-year subscription to the zoo's newsletter, Oregon Zoo Tracks. A \$55 Naturalist level sponsor receives all of the above benefits plus a color photo of the animal and two passes to Zoofari, an evening featuring behind-the-scenes group tours led by Oregon Zoo keepers.

ZooParent sponsorships are tax deductible and benefit the zoo's Future for Wildlife program, which helps fund conservation programs for endangered and threatened species including California condors, western pond turtles, Washington pygmy rabbits, and Oregon silverspot butterflies. All zoo animals are available for sponsorship, so there's sure to be an animal to suit everyone's taste. Sponsorships may be purchased by calling 503-220-2493 or logging on to the zoo's Web site at <www.oregonzoo.org/Support/zooparent.htm>.

Zoo memberships are also a great gift. Benefits include unlimited zoo admission for one year, admission benefits at more than 100 zoos nationwide, invitations to members-only events, quarterly newsletter, discounts on zoo train rides, educational camps and classes and at the zoo's gift shops. Memberships begin at \$39. For further information, call 503-220-2493.

Gift Certificates for admission, food or retail purchases, are available at the zoo's reception office in \$5 increments. Certificates may also be purchased by calling 503-220-2786; however, a \$5 fee will be added to the cost. Regular ad-

mission tickets, which are valid for one year from date of purchase, make great stocking stuffers and can be purchased either in the zoo's office or online at <www.oregonzoo.org>.

An up-close and personal experience with an animal is priceless, but gift certificates for such an adventure can be purchased through the zoo's education office at 503-220-2781. Education gift certificates may be used to pay for any education program, including camps, classes and behind-the-scenes encounters.

Cascade Outfitters, the zoo gift shop, is bursting with unique animal-themed gifts. From intricate handmade animal ornaments to cuddly plush

toys, the gift shop has something for everyone. There are animals to hug, puzzles to solve, books to read, and collectible gifts for everyone on your list. You may also shop at Cascade Outfitters from the comfort and warmth of your home, the gift shop can be accessed at <www.w.ps.aramark.com/oregonzoo> or through a link on the home page of the zoo's Web site. Shipping and the 10 percent member discount are also available on the Web. Members will also receive an additional 10 percent discount on their first Internet purchase.

The zoo opens at 9 a.m. daily and is located just off Highway 26 in Portland.

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