

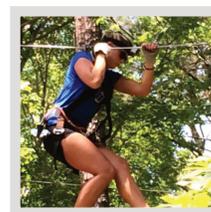
## Virginia Aquarium Opens The Adventure Park

The Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach, Va., offers high flying fun with guests climbing to platforms, making their way through ropes courses, and zipping through its Owls Creek green marshlands with the new addition of The Adventure Park at Virginia Aquarium.

At the park, guests can climb in the Adventure Forest or in the Labyrinth. The Adventure Forest spreads through about six acres of the canopy just north of the Marsh Pavilion. After completing a safety briefing on how to use “always-locked-on” gear, guests climb into a main tree platform where they can choose from thirteen different trails that are color coded to indicate degree of difficulty. Trails are marked just like ski runs, with some suitable for novice, some for intermediate, and some for advanced climbers.

The Labyrinth is a climbing area similar to the Adventure Forest, but it's scaled down for younger climbers or parents who are young at heart.

For more details about The Adventure Park at Virginia Aquarium, please visit either [www.virginiaaquarium.com](http://www.virginiaaquarium.com) or [www.virginiabeachadventurepark.com](http://www.virginiabeachadventurepark.com).



## Promoting Health for Villagers in Borneo While Saving Orangutan Habitat



An initiative spearheaded by Kinari Webb MD, founder of [www.healthinharmony.org](http://www.healthinharmony.org) has created health and wealth for villagers surrounding Gunung Palung National Park, home to ten percent (2,500) of the world's remaining wild Bornean orangutans. High quality, affordable family health care is provided by young Indonesian doctors who are mentored by American physicians. This is paid for by villagers who use composted livestock manure that enriches tropical soil for organic farming of vegetables that are extremely valued in markets. This creates incentives that promote forest friendly livelihood alternatives to illegal logging. In a program enhancement in 2014 led by Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, N.Y., veterinarians are mentoring goat and cattle farmers in best herd health practices further promoting villager partnership, ownership and pride in saving one of Borneo's last forest refuges for orangutans.

## Animal Ambassadors Arrive on Capitol Hill

On May 7th the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) hosted its annual Capitol Hill Advocacy Day and Reception. During the day, zoo and aquarium professionals met with legislators to discuss programs at their institutions and to encourage their representatives to support the important issues affecting all AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums. In the evening everyone gathered at a reception, held in conjunction with the Congressional Zoo and Aquarium Caucus, which featured animal ambassadors and their keepers.



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## Chicago City Council Adopts Resolution about the Illegal Trade in Ivory

The Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield, Ill., John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, Ill., and Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, Ill., have joined the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in New York, N.Y., as partners along with more than 100 other AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums in the **96 Elephants Campaign**, an effort focused on securing a U.S. moratorium on illegal ivory; bolstering protection of African elephants; and educating the public about the link between ivory consumption and the elephant poaching crisis. More than 35,000 elephants are slaughtered every year just for their tusks. Many of those tusks end up in the United States, the world's second-largest market for wildlife products. Loopholes in the law make it difficult to

enforce regulations against importing ivory, particularly once ivory is smuggled past our borders.

On May 28th the Chicago City Council adopted a resolution to raise awareness about the alarming rate at which wild African elephants are being poached because of the demand for ivory. The three organizations also will be using the summer and fall months to engage members of the Illinois General Assembly about the urgent need for a state-wide moratoria banning the import and/or sale of ivory in Illinois and to educate state lawmakers about the involvement of terrorist organizations in the ivory trade. For more information about the 96 Elephants campaign, please visit [www.96elephants.org](http://www.96elephants.org).

## Mystic Aquarium Honored at White House Ceremony

**On May 8<sup>th</sup> ten museums and libraries including Mystic Aquarium were honored at the White House with the 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The National Medal is the nation's highest honor for museums and libraries for service to the community. Dr. Stephen Coan, president and CEO of Sea Research Foundation, attended the ceremony to accept the National Medal for Mystic Aquarium, which is a leader in conservation, education, and marine mammal research. The National Medal recipients also receive a \$5,000 award and a visit from StoryCorps, a national nonprofit dedicated to recording, preserving, and sharing the stories of Americans. To watch the ceremony or to learn more about the National Medal, please click [here](#).**

## Largest Earth Day Party in North America Connects People to Wildlife Conservation

In April more than 130 of the top zoos and aquariums threw the 8th Annual Party for the Planet™—the largest combined Earth Day celebration in North America.

“Each year, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums help connect more than 181 million visitors to nature, and these visitors have a strong interest in taking action to help protect the future of the Earth,” said AZA President & CEO Jim Maddy. “By participating in Party For the Planet™ at their local AZA-accredited zoo or aquarium, families will not only learn what they can do to help preserve our planet, but they will also learn about what zoos and aquariums are doing to support conservation efforts worldwide.”

On Earth Day, April 22nd, and throughout the month of April, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums across North America hosted events to raise awareness about conservation, sustainable living and making our Earth a better place to live. Scheduled Party for the Planet™ events included live animal presentations, give-aways, crafts, keeper talks, environmental activities and much more. For more information please click [here](#).



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