

Celebrate Polar Bears this Weekend at Assiniboine Park Zoo

For immediate release: Winnipeg, February 24, 2017 – February 27 is International Polar Bear Day and to celebrate Assiniboine Park Zoo will have fun activities all weekend long where visitors can learn about the polar bears, conservation and climate change, and how they can make sustainable choices in their lives to positively impact the environment.

“We’re happy to participate in this very important initiative and encourage visitors to learn about the impacts of climate change on the Arctic and polar bears,” said Gary Lunsford, Sr. Director, Animal Management & Conservation, Assiniboine Park Zoo. “There’s lots of extra activities and events planned for the weekend and we’re looking forward to seeing many people here to celebrate polar bears.”

This will also be the last weekend of events for Northern Explorer Month where visitors who have paid one fee can come back for free. The following specialty events will take place over the weekend in support of International Polar Bear Day:

- **Breakfast with Bears**
10 AM Saturday, February 25 & Sunday, February 26 in Tundra Grill. Enjoy breakfast while viewing the polar bears as the zookeepers will put out “popsicles” for the polar bears for “let’s lick climate change” to promote awareness about the effects climate change has on polar bear habitat
- **Polar Bear Sucker Selfie Contest (February 24th – February 28th)**
Join in to help raise awareness about climate change with our “let’s lick climate change” Polar Bear Sucker Selfie Contest. Purchase a white chocolate polar bear sucker at the Wild Things Unique Gifts (at the Zoo entrance) or Arctic Treasures (in Tundra Grill). Take a selfie and post your pic on Instagram with **#letslickclimatechange** to be entered into a draw for an awesome polar bear themed prize! Prize includes; polar bear mug
polar bear stuffie, polar bear sunglasses, polar bear sucker, polar bear bone necklace, all in a reusable zoo bag!
- **Play time in the Arctic (1 PM – 3 PM) Saturday, February 25 & Sunday, February 26, all in the Gateway to the Arctic Building**
 - Crafts and hands on Polar Bear Biofact Tables (1PM -3PM)
 - Story Telling (1:30 PM)
 - Animal encounters (11 AM & 2 PM), learn about polar bears and seals with a zookeeper

- **Free Conservation and Zoo Bear Trek**
Visitors can join one of our Educators as they share the stories about our bears as well as conservation strategies. These free 45 minute tours begin at the Gateway to the Arctic building and go through parts of Journey to Churchill. (11 AM & 1 PM)
- **Interactive Art Installation in the Gateway to the Arctic Building**
Saturday, February 25 & Sunday, February 26
See how you *size up* to the Assiniboine Park Zoo polar bears with an interactive Art Installation by local artist Kal Barteski.

The Zoo will be open from 9 am to 4 pm all weekend. The full promotion schedule can be found at assiniboineparkzoo.ca.

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For more information and interview requests, please contact:

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