

**Celebrate the Winter Season at Assiniboine Park Zoo  
-FREE Admission for children 12 and under from December 23 to January 8-**

**For immediate release: Winnipeg, December 21, 2016** – Assiniboine Park Zoo is inviting the community to celebrate the holiday season with free Zoo admission for children 12 and under for the entire winter break from December 23 until January 8, 2017.

“The holiday season is about spending quality time with friends and family and making memories,” said Gary Lunsford, Sr. Director, Animal Care & Conservation. “This is our way of saying thanks to the community for a wonderful year. We are looking forward to sharing more magical moments with you in 2017!”

The following winter activities will take place at the Zoo throughout the entire winter break from Friday December 23 to Sunday January 8, 2017.

- **Winter Adaptation Challenge** – Visit the Zoo’s “coolest” animals and learn how their adaptations make them better suited to survive and thrive in the winter! Submit your checklist to Wild Things Unique Gifts located at the Zoo entrance to receive your Zoo Explorer prize. Find the Winter Adaptation Challenge on the map brochure.
- **Heavy Horse Keeper Talks** – Learn about heavy horses and the pioneer era of our province’s history and meet the keepers who care for these amazing animals. Taking place every morning at 11 am at the McFeetors Heavy Horse Centre.
- **Polar Bear Keeper Talks** – Learn about the world of polar bears from the polar bear zookeepers. Maybe you’ll even see them swim in the water and play in the snow. Taking place every morning at 11:30 am the Gateway to the Arctic building.
- **Polar Playground** – Kids of all ages will love this indoor Arctic wonderland of active participation! The Polar Playground is located inside the Tundra Grill and open during regular Zoo hours.
- **Polar Bear story time** – Get transported in a wintry book about polar bears at Gateway to the Arctic building. Taking place on the weekends at 12 pm daily.
- **Winter Craft Station** – Art and animal lovers alike can join our Zoo volunteers and colour or make their own book marks! Taking place at Gateway to the Arctic building from 11 am to 3 pm daily.
- **Horse Drawn Carriage Rides** – Visit McFeetors Heavy Horse Centre for carriage rides! While you’re there, make sure you take a family photo in front of the festive frosted paddock area. Taking place daily from 1 pm to 3 pm. (Only \$3! Carriage rides not taking place on December 28, 2016)

- **Winston on Location** – Winston, our polar bear mascot, will be making appearances throughout the winter break. Visit [assiniboineparkzoo.ca](http://assiniboineparkzoo.ca) for full schedule details.

The Zoo is open 9 am to 4 pm daily but will be closed on December 25. To plan your visit, please go to [assiniboineparkzoo.ca](http://assiniboineparkzoo.ca).

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For more information and interview requests, please contact:  
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