



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Lincoln Park Zoo’s International Chimpanzee Conservation Efforts
and Education Programming Recognized by the
Association of Zoos and Aquariums**

Chicago, IL (Sept. 22, 2009) – The Association for Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) has recognized Lincoln Park Zoo with two national awards in international conservation and public education programs.

Last week, at the national AZA conference in Portland, Oregon, where world-renowned primatologist and conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall was keynote speaker, Lincoln Park Zoo researchers received Top Honors in International Conservation for their chimpanzee conservation efforts in Gombe National Park, Tanzania – the field site of Goodall’s groundbreaking research that changed the world’s understanding of animals, and altered perceptions of what it means to be human.

The zoo is proud to partner with the Jane Goodall Institute (www.janegoodall.org) on a number of research initiatives in Gombe from studying chimpanzee health to chimpanzee play and the mother-infant relationship.

Additionally, the zoo received a Significant Achievement Award in Education for the creation of “Exploring Ape Behavior” a 75-minute interactive educational program offered to visitors at the Regenstein Center for African Apes to actively engage the public in great ape behavioral research.

The Association annually recognizes exceptional efforts by AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, AZA-Certified Related Facilities, and AZA Conservation Partners toward habitat preservation, species restoration, and support of biodiversity in the wild through its International Conservation Award. The AZA Education Award recognizes outstanding achievement in educational program design, judging programs on their ability to promote conservation knowledge, attitudes and behavior, show innovation, and measure success.

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ABOUT LINCOLN PARK ZOO

Lincoln Park Zoo, a historic Chicago landmark founded in 1868, is dedicated to connecting people with nature by providing a free, family-oriented wildlife experience. A leader in conservation science both globally and locally, the zoo exemplifies the highest quality animal care and educational outreach. The not-for-profit zoo, managed by The Lincoln Park Zoological Society, is a member-supported organization and one of the nation's only free, privately managed zoos. For more information, call 312 -742-2000 or visit www.lpzoo.org.

ABOUT AZA

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, education, science, and recreation. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting an institution dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, the AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information, please visit www.aza.org.