

Lincoln Park Zoo Polar Bear Experts

Dave Bernier, General Curator

General Curator Dave Bernier has been working at Lincoln Park Zoo for more than twenty years and has managed small and large mammals, birds, reptiles and almost every animal in between while at the zoo, in addition to managing an 80-plus Animal Care staff. Bernier has been pivotal in zoo research and animal management in a vast and varied array of topics including ornate box turtle shell composition, endocrinology in armadillos and Sichuan takin and studbook keeping, as a Species Survival Plan Coordinator within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Bernier's knowledge has a strong impact on the zoo and has played a critical role in everything from population management to exhibit design, including *Walter Family Arctic Tundra*.

Mark Kamhout, Curator of Mammals

Being the Curator of Mammals, Mark has worked with a wide variety of species at Lincoln Park Zoo. To name a few, he has lent his knowledge in helping care for red pandas, lions, black rhinos and polar bears. Kamhout has a master's of science degree from Michigan State University and has worked at Lincoln Park Zoo since 2007. His vast experience in animal care, husbandry and management has resulted in successful births, transfers and conservation efforts, further showcasing his dedication to threatened and endangered species across the globe.

Anthony Nielsen, Lead Animal Keeper

Polar Bears International Arctic Ambassador

Anthony Nielsen is the Lead Animal Keeper at Lincoln Park Zoo's *Kovler Lion House* and *Kovler Seal Pool*, but his animal expertise extends far beyond felids and pinnipeds. Nielsen graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's of science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and has been at Lincoln Park Zoo for 16 years. During his tenure, Nielsen has traveled to Churchill, Canada to conduct climate change research pertaining to polar bears, as a part of the Feay Earthwatch Grant. Nielsen is a Polar Bears International Arctic Ambassador committed to conserving polar bears in the wild and inspiring others to do the same.