

You Made It Possible

Thank you.



This is a time when “thank you” just doesn’t seem to be enough.

As we reflect on all that’s happened in 2020 and 2021—for wildlife, for the world, and for all of us—we return again and again to a feeling of gratitude. Gratitude for you, and for your steadfast support during the most challenging era our organization has ever faced. Because no matter what may have changed over the last two years, one thing remains the same: **you make all the difference, and we cannot thank you enough.**

You were by our side as we weathered five months of closures—the first time in our 105-year history we were closed for more than a single day. **Your generosity ensured the wildlife at the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park continued receiving the very highest standard of care.** Your support also enabled us to continue critical field conservation around the world, racing against the clock to save endangered species and preserve the ecosystems we all rely on to thrive.

More than ever, the past two years have shown how we’re all connected. And together, in order to meet the growing and changing needs of wildlife, we ushered in a new era as San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. Today, you bring our century of expertise to eight key regions across the globe—our conservation hubs—where we partner with other experts and local communities to make the greatest impact for animals, plants, and native habitats.

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While we were evolving to meet the needs of wildlife worldwide, the needs of wildlife in our care continued to evolve as well. When some of our animals contracted COVID-19, **you helped us create and deliver cutting-edge care**—techniques that are now benefiting wildlife around the globe. And, you helped vaccinate all the vulnerable animals at the Zoo and Safari Park, further securing their future.

The scope and depth of your support has been nothing short of amazing. From daily care of nearly 16,000 animals and more than 2 million plants at the Zoo and Safari Park, to engaging students online, and safely forging ahead on building new homes for our wildlife, everything we've accomplished has been because of you.



You gave generously and remembered us in your estate plans. You supported the critical needs of wildlife in our care during five months without visitors. You helped us safely stay on track with current projects—no small feat during a pandemic—and together, we celebrated the openings of Kenneth C. Griffin Komodo Kingdom and William E. Cole Family Hummingbird Habitat. And, you're propelling us forward as we look ahead to our next chapters, including an all-new, awe-inspiring Elephant Valley, and the upcoming opening of Denny Sanford Wildlife Explorers Basecamp.

We extend an extra special thank you to our President's Clubs members for their continued dedication. Your annual, sustained support is foundational to everything we do, and has been especially vital over the last two years.

Each and every day you inspire us and remind us we're all connected. **We are forever grateful for you. We hope you enjoy this snapshot of what you've made possible.**

Together for Wildlife,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, belonging to Paul A. Baribault.

Paul A. Baribault

President and CEO, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, belonging to Steven G. Tappan.

Steven G. Tappan

Chair, Board of Trustees, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance

Your Impact in 2020 & 2021

A NEW HOME AND SAVANNA EXPERIENCE

You have generously given \$30 million toward our \$70 million goal to reimagine **Elephant Valley at the Safari Park**. This new home for our elephant family is a special place to make lifelong connections with these magnificent and iconic animals, while learning about life on the savanna for both people and wildlife, and securing a future for elephants worldwide.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY

We're all connected, and it takes a global community of allies to build a world where all life thrives. In 2020 and 2021, you helped us make history at our **first-ever virtual Rendezvous In The Zoo (R·I·T·Z)** galas, bringing our wildlife and conservation work live to guests on 6 continents, in 21 countries, and 35 states—from Canada to China, the Netherlands to New Zealand, Argentina, Germany, India, and beyond! We are deeply grateful to our R·I·T·Z donors for providing vital support during the most challenging time in our history as we navigated five months of closures.

HOPE FOR RHINOS

With you by our side, our pioneering program to **save the northern white rhino** forged ahead in collaboration with local, national, and international partners. You supported this effort with more than \$1 million in donations, helping it meet every benchmark in the plan to save the most endangered rhino on Earth—methods that, once perfected, will be used to save other endangered rhinos worldwide.

SECURING THE FUTURE

Your generous forethought makes it possible to meet the conservation challenges of today and tomorrow. **Thank you to our Heritage Guild members**, who have chosen to leave a legacy by including San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance in

their estate plans. We are grateful for donors such as **David Figg, whose estate recently established the David Figg Conservation Endowment**, supporting Scientist-Program Managers in the Southwest, Amazonia, and African Forest conservation hubs.

INNOVATING FOR WILDLIFE

We are deeply grateful to the family of **William H. May and the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation for their extraordinary endowment**. The establishment of the William H. May/Beckman Endowed Scientist in Wildlife Biodiversity Banking drives genetic recovery and innovative reproductive technologies that will save wildlife today and for generations to come.

THE NEXT GENERATION

With innovation, hard work, and rigorous safety protocols in place, Teacher Workshops in Conservation Science continued for **236 local middle and high school educators, reaching 38,940 students** and inspiring crucial connections to the natural world. Brand-new curricula developed for virtual field trips engaged an additional 2,000 students, connecting them directly with our wildlife care specialists and researchers through more than 200 Zoom calls! And moving ahead, 16,000 students each year will learn about biodiversity and the incredible role that wildlife adaptations play in healthy ecosystems, because of the generosity of the Vassiliadis Family Foundation and their endowment of the Adaptations Connections program. We are so thankful.



VIRTUAL VISITS

When the world shut down, guests, members, and donors came to us. Our website traffic increased as much as 1,400%, **with millions of people across the globe learning, discovering, and staying connected** with their favorite wildlife at the Zoo and Safari Park through our wildlife cams and content.

Your Next Adventure

Denny Sanford Wildlife Explorers Basecamp



CREATING FUTURE ALLIES FOR WILDLIFE

You've been by our side as we've worked to transform the southeast corner of the San Diego Zoo over the past few years. During 2020 and 2021, we saw many of those projects come to life with the openings of the Busy Bee Café and Oasis Outpost, an entirely new Zoofari Party Area, and the incredible Kenneth C. Griffin Komodo Kingdom and William E. Cole Family Hummingbird Habitat.

As you know, these efforts will culminate when we soon unveil a brand-new, one-of-a-kind, and truly immersive nature play adventure. The 3.2-acre Denny Sanford Wildlife Explorers Basecamp replaces the former Children's Zoo. This innovative destination will inspire the next generation of conservationists and connect them to the natural world like never before.

In this fully reimagined space, guests of all ages will visit habitats from around the world, actively playing, encountering new species, and developing empathy for wildlife along the way. Conservation begins with people, and research shows that empathy is an important factor in predicting a person's willingness to take conservation action.

Wildlife Explorers Basecamp is a starting point on that lifelong journey, truly a basecamp. Throughout four key habitats, visitors are immersed in nature as they play alongside animals, build creativity and confidence, and transform into allies for wildlife. By sparking empathy, we pave the way for the decision-makers of tomorrow—the next generation of leaders, teachers, parents, and citizens—to join us in protecting biodiversity and the planet we share.

Your generosity has made this groundbreaking experience possible, and we are incredibly grateful for all you do. **Your support—of Denny Sanford Wildlife Explorers Basecamp and of our organization as a whole—has an impact that will ripple far into the future.** Together, we're inspiring the next generation of wildlife allies to join us in creating a world where all life thrives.

We can't wait to welcome you and your family to Wildlife Explorers Basecamp in February 2022. Until then, enjoy this sneak peek of the wild adventure and exploration that awaits!

Desert Dunes

Your adventure begins as you enter **Denny Sanford Wildlife Explorers Basecamp**. Look up! Atop the dramatic entry trellis, a parade of leafcutter ants welcomes you into the interactive Desert Dunes habitat. With an enormous globe rotating 360° on water and larger-than-life play structures priming you to experience the world through an insect's eyes—and building empathy for tiny species that play big roles in their ecosystems. Caves and other shaded areas give explorers a place to cool off under the rocks, just like desert-dwelling species.



Wild Woods

There's more than meets the eye in **Miller Wild Woods**. From the top of the ancient **Tree of Dreams** to its complex root system, hands-on discovery and adventure are around every corner—if only you keep exploring. Climb alongside squirrel monkeys, then monkey around through net tunnels or take the spiral staircase and find the splash pool and waterfall grotto. Follow the shallow stream along the bluffs past the coatis and toward the stone bridge, but be on the lookout for jump jets, fog, and other surprises that will keep you guessing.





Marsh Meadows

Coming out from under **The Conrad Prebys Foundation Discovery Bridge**, a sloping path leads you down into **Marsh Meadows**, immersing you in this watery habitat. Walking along a muddy shore, you'll soon find yourself submerged in the underwater viewing area where crocodiles, turtles, Chinese giant salamanders, axolotls, and fish await. With lush vegetation, local wildlife like birds and butterflies will be encouraged to make this area of Wildlife Explorers Basecamp their home. San Diego is the most biodiverse county in the contiguous United States, and home to some of the most endangered species in our country—we want guests to leave with a greater understanding and empathy for the plants and animals that share their own ecosystem.



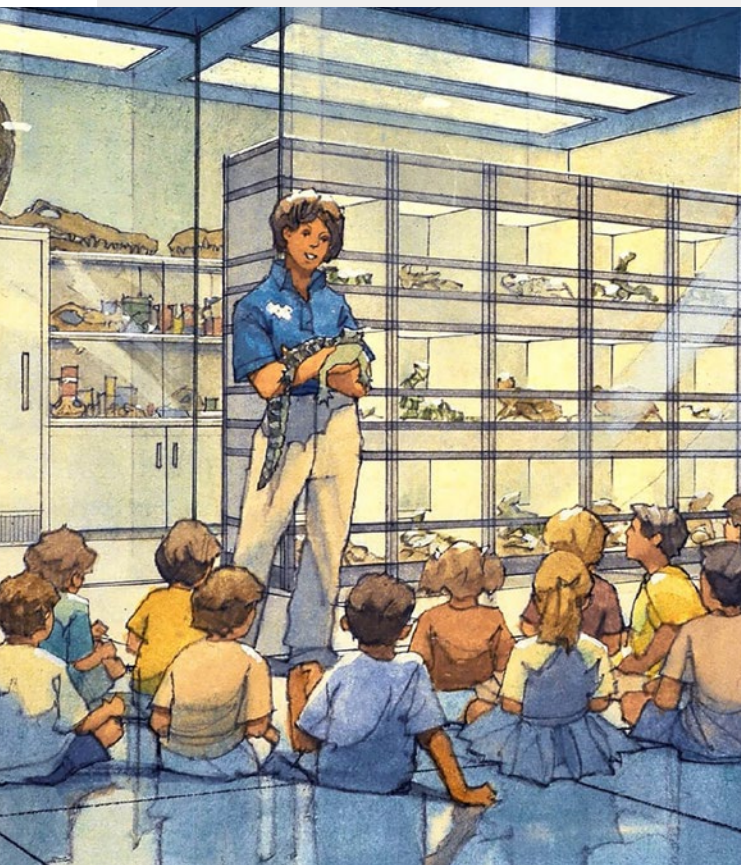
Rainforest

Beyond Marsh Meadows, discover a cool, leafy rainforest canopy. Immersed in this lush and interactive habitat, you'll encounter an intriguing array of wildlife, from two-toed sloths to prehensile-tailed porcupines and other **Rady Wildlife Ambassadors**.



Rady Ambassador Headquarters

Along the Tropical Bridge of the **Rainforest** habitat, you never know who you'll find at home in **Rady Ambassador Headquarters**. We're thrilled to welcome several new Wildlife Ambassadors, including African giant pouched rats. Also known as "hero rats," these incredible mammals can be trained to sniff out landmines and illegally trafficked wildlife. You may also encounter Wildlife Ambassadors roaming throughout the habitats with their wildlife care specialists for an unexpected—and unforgettable—face-to-face encounter. These wild moments are a powerful catalyst for lifelong learning and conservation.



Conservation Behind the Scenes

The **Living River** carries you alongside fish and frogs into **Jake's Cool Critters, made possible by Art and Danielle Engel**. You'll peek into the wildlife care specialist kitchen and see what it takes to feed 16,000 animals a day. Discover how your support helps put a stop to the global wildlife trafficking trade—a \$19 billion business that poses a threat to biodiversity, ecosystems, and our own human health. You're providing a safe home and expert care for animals and plants confiscated from the illegal trade by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—some of which call Wildlife Explorers Basecamp home.

The McKinney Family Spineless Marvels

Protecting all wildlife is vital to the future of the planet. Get a new perspective on spineless marvels of all sorts, beginning with an insect migration flyover from a bug's point of view. A fascinating two-level leafcutter ant habitat will take you underground for an inside look at this incredible colony. And as you move on through giant honeycombs and bee sculptures, you'll observe bees in their hives, coming away with a new appreciation for these often misunderstood—but critically important—pollinators.



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is grateful for the 3,092 donors who contributed more than \$87 million to Denny Sanford Wildlife Explorers Basecamp, with leadership gifts provided by: Denny Sanford; Ernest and Evelyn Rady; the McKinney family; The Conrad Prebys Foundation; the Una Davis family; the Bob and Marion Wilson family; Art and Danielle Engel; the Hervey Family Fund at The San Diego Foundation; and the Zuest family.

