

Bergen County Zoological Park Monthly Newsletter

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James J. Tedesco, III
County Executive

**Board of Chosen
Freeholders**

James Koth,
Director of Parks

Marianne Vella
Zoo Director

Zoo Camp is a week long 1/2 day program that the Education Department at the Bergen County Zoo offers county residents and zoo members. It runs from 9am—1pm. Children ages 5 to 15years old. Zoo Camp runs from the end of June to the beginning of August. Campers are organized into four groups (depending on their age).

During their week at camp, children can expect to tour the zoo, meet animals up close (in a classroom setting) and conduct other animal themed activities.

The brochure and application is posted on both the Bergen County Zoo's official webpage

ZOO CAMP

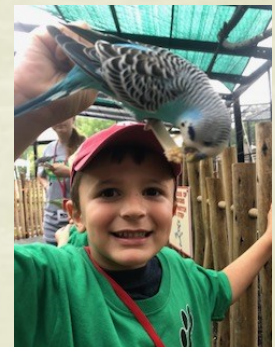
as well as Facebook/Twitter by the end of January with the applications due back by March 1st. Once the deadline has passed, the children are selected via a lottery system.

Missed out on this years' camp—make sure to look out for Zoo Camp 2019 in January.

Here is a glimpse of some activities that this year's campers had the opportunity of participating/enjoying.



Enjoying a special animal presentation



Enjoying the new Budgie Exhibit



**Participating in Vet Day
At Sheep/Goat Exhibit**

F R I E N D S O F T H E B E R G E N C O U N T Y Z O O

The Friends of the Bergen County Zoo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is dedicated to providing financial support to the Bergen County Zoological Park for the welfare of its animals, educational programs and family-friendly facilities. It is the generous support of our sponsors, donors, members and zoo visitors that allow us to meet this mission. The Friends offer a variety of memberships for individuals and families. Please visit www.communitypass.net, choose "Friends of the Bergen County Zoo, NJ" (for Community or Organization) and continue through to either Create an Account or Existing Users can Log in. Visit us at www.friendsofbergencountyzoo.org or like us on Facebook! The Friends look forward to seeing you at the Zoo!

SPOTLIGHT ANIMAL: BLACK-HANDED SPIDER MONKEY

Distinguished by their hands and feet that are black, these spider monkeys live in the forests, mountains savannas and riverbanks of South America.

Spider monkeys are covered with bristly tan to gold color fur. Their faces are hairless with white prominent rings around the eyes.

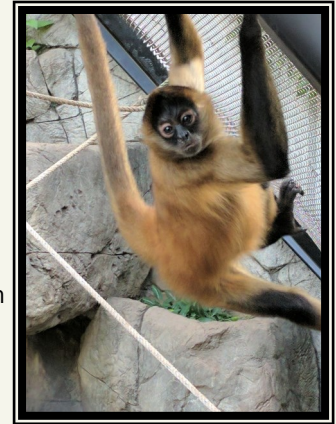
Black-Handed spider monkeys have no regular breeding season, they reach sexual maturity at about 4-5 years of age. Usually a single young is born and remains dependent on its mother for about 10 months.

These animals have a social structure and typically break up into smaller groups (such as females with their young). Males

are dominant within the group, with one being the alpha and a similar hierarchy occurs within the females.

Fun Fact: Spider monkeys are amazing artists and the animal keepers engage with them in creating animal art. If you want to know more, please reach out to us at

201-634-3118.



Spider Monkey on Exhibit
Photo by Carmen Baca

ANIMAL ART PROGRAM

Animals at the Bergen County Zoo have raised their paws and paintbrushes to create original masterpieces for you to take home! All of the "animal artists" enjoy painting with non-toxic paint on a canvas with a little help from their zookeeper friends.

Zookeepers work to incorporate interesting and challenging activities into the animals' daily routine. Each animal uses his or her own special technique to create unique artwork through enrichment activities that were created to enhance their everyday lives. Each painting includes a photo of the animal artist with a short biography. All proceeds from the sales of animal art support zoo conservation and enrichment programs.

This year we displayed our animal art at special events such as the egg hunt, member's night and endangered species day. If you are interested in learning more about animal art and/or wish to purchase an item please reach out to 201-634-3118 or via email mtesdeschi@co.bergen.nj.us



SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE: SARAH NELSON



An aspect that the Bergen County Zoo likes to promote is that of taking an individual's love of animals and having it turn into a career. Perhaps the individual begins as a volunteer or a seasonal employee but with time, dedication and experience that same individual can become a full time employee. One such example is Sarah Nelson.

Sarah Nelson arrived at the Bergen County Zoo as a seasonal employee in May of 2013. She would work in our seasonal exhibits and in certain animal exhibits. Ms. Nelson would return every summer, during her breaks from

Delaware Valley College where she was pursuing her B.S. in Animal Biotechnology and Conservation which she obtained in May of 2015.

After graduating and receiving her degree Ms. Nelson remained at the zoo as a seasonal employee where she began to receive more experience and training at the facility. Her hard work and dedication to her craft and to the animals paid off and by August 2016 Sarah Nelson was made a full time employee.

Since becoming a full time employee, Ms. Nelson dove right into ways that she can better take care of the animal collection at the zoo. She found her niche in working with the safety committee.

As a committee member, Sarah Nelson, ensures that the animal's safety is always considered in every activity that the zoo does. From repairing exhibits to placing enrichment items for the animals, their safety and well being is a criteria that must always be met.

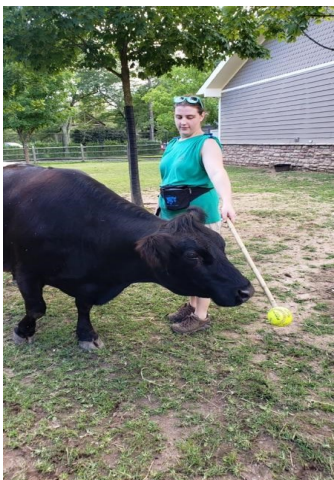
Ms. Nelson's safety committee responsibilities does not end with the animals themselves but also extends to the zoo facility itself. On a monthly basis, Sarah Nelson goes to each animal

exhibit to conduct a check list inspection. This particular check list has her checking for slip factors and emergency lighting as well as checking on fire extinguishers and having areas clear of debris.

Another quality that Sarah Nelson has is her dedication to training the animals, in particular our Belted Galloway Cow. She began the training using a clicker to get the animal used to rewards when she followed the item. Then she moved to target training, which is more specific and the animal would move to where the target item is and follow it at the keepers direction.

Ms. Nelson spoke a bit about her training with this animal, "The main reason that I train with the cow is to get her to go into her chute without problems". A chute is a particular section in the cow's exhibit where she can be locked in so that the vet can examine her and take her vitals and conduct her physicals.

To further her training knowledge, Sarah Nelson is going to be attending a training conference this September in Denver. "I hope to gather more tools and techniques that can assist with the training of not just the cow but the other animals at the Bergen County Zoo".



**Sarah Nelson conducting animal training and presenting a snake during an animal presentation.
Photos by Sarah Nelson**

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE ZOO

There are numerous ways to support the Bergen County Zoo:

- Consider becoming a zoo member
- Sponsor an Animal
- Enroll in our docent/volunteer program
- Purchase Animal Art

Information on all of these programs is available at the Zoo, our website or by calling 201-634-3100 ext. 3110



Bergen County Zoological Park
216 Forest Avenue
Paramus, NJ 07652
201-634-3100

Bergen County Zoological Park



www.co.bergen.nj.us/bcparks

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ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

The Bergen County Zoo is proud to be an AZA Accredited Zoo.

The Association of Zoos & Aquariums provides its members with the services, high standards, best practices, and program coordination to be leaders in animal welfare, public engagement, and the conservation of species.

Reminders:

Bergen County Residents must provide proof of residency to receive the discounted rate. Forms of proof are: Driver's License, Utility bill to the residence, Bergen County issued ID Card.

Zoo Members must show their membership card to enter the zoo for free.

James J. Tedesco, III

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