



News From

Cheryl Dinolfo

Monroe County Executive

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SENECA PARK ZOO ATTAINS PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL ACCREDITATION FROM A.Z.A.

Zoo earns new accreditation from Association of Zoos and Aquariums; Less than 10% of licensed wildlife exhibitors in the U.S. achieve this recognition

Monroe County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** today announced that the Seneca Park Zoo was granted accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Zoos and aquariums are required to successfully complete a rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to become or remain members of the AZA. The Seneca Park Zoo has been accredited continuously since 1979, making it one of the longest-accredited facilities in the country.

*“We are thrilled to be recognized by the AZA as a best-in-class Zoo through this new national accreditation,” says **Dinolfo**. “The AZA’s rigorous accreditation process recognizes that our Zoo has achieved the highest standards in animal care, educational programs, and overall guest experience. This honor is also a strong vote of confidence in our ongoing Zoo improvement project, which is designed to enhance our efforts to grow more jobs and support stronger families across Monroe County.”*

AZA Accreditation is a thorough process, assessing every aspect of a zoo or aquarium’s operation, to ensure that it meets ever-rising national standards. Fewer than 10% of organizations licensed by the USDA to exhibit wildlife achieve this recognition. Currently, there are only 232 AZA Accredited facilities.

*“The Seneca Park Zoo is among the world-class aquariums and zoos that have achieved our rigorous accreditation standards,” said AZA President and CEO **Dan Ashe**. “The hundreds of millions of annual guests to AZA-accredited facilities like the Seneca Park Zoo can be assured their visit is supporting institutions that provide the highest-quality animal care and ARE contributing to conservation initiatives that save animals from extinction.”*

The AZA Accreditation process includes a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspecting team observes all aspects of the institution’s operation, including animal care and welfare; keeper training; safety for visitors, staff and animals; educational programs; conservation efforts; veterinary programs; financial stability; risk management; visitor services; and more. Finally, top officials are interviewed at a formal hearing of AZA’s independent Accreditation Commission, after which AZA Accreditation is either Granted, Tabled, or Denied.

*“The Seneca Park Zoo is truly an AZA Accreditation success story,” said Zoo Director **Larry Staub**. “Each and every morning as we open our gates for the day, we are fully committed to operating with the high standards expected of an AZA Accredited facility. Hats off to our hardworking and dedicated Zoo staff, incredible volunteers and supportive Zoo Society partners for pulling together to help us achieve this highest honor.”*

Seneca Park Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. through October 31, and 10:00 a.m to 3:00 p.m. after November 1. Guests who have already entered the Zoo can stay on grounds one hour past closing time. Learn more at senecaparkzoo.org/visit.

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