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EL PASO ZOO

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January 8th, 2008

Press Release: El Paso Zoo Accepts Award for Fort Bliss Collaboration



(OFC. David Muniz, El Paso Zoo's Rose Greenough holding plaque, OFC. Officer Timothy Plummer)

The El Paso Zoo's mission is all about helping kids learn, and it's not just about teaching them the ways of conservation (though that is one of our primary goals) – it's also about rewarding them for their hard work. One way the Zoo was able to participate in some local students' education was through an incentive contest held by Fort Bliss.

Last year, the Directorate of Emergency Services at Fort Bliss organized an essay and drawing contest for children in schools in the Fort Bliss area. The contest theme was to write or draw about fallen police officers.

"It's a great reward for the children for their efforts and for what they put forth in the communities to recognize the fallen police officers and the active officers in the United States – it helps them to look up to the police officers more and give them more respect," said Officer David Muniz.

When Fort Bliss Officer Joe Bob Martinez went around to different businesses collecting incentives and prizes for the kids, he approached the El Paso Zoo for assistance. Joe Bob explained that the children who won the contest would receive a prize package, which he hoped would include El Paso Zoo tickets. The El Paso Zoo was more than happy to be able to offer its help to this educational endeavor.

“Elementary schools around the Fort Bliss communities including Logan Elementary and Nolan Richardson and Nixon were a part of the competition. It gets the children to get more involved with other essay programs that they don’t normally get involved in – helps them further themselves, and in the future, it furthers their own jobs,” said Crime Prevention Officer Timothy Plummer, who was one of the Fort Bliss officers who visited the zoo to hand-deliver the plaque on Tuesday.

“This award is in recognition of the support the Zoo gave during ‘National Police Week’ in May of 2007,” said Officer Plummer as he handed to the plaque to Rose Greenough, Office Manager at the El Paso Zoo.

The El Paso Zoo will participate in the contest again, this year and also plans further collaborations with the Directorate of Emergency Service, including inviting them to host a booth during the Zoo’s educational event “Military, Fire and Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.” This event will be coming up on July 5th 2008 and provides outreach opportunities for the different organizations invited to showcase their personnel, and equipment. In turn, it gives the El Paso Zoo a chance to say “thanks” to the military community by offering half price admission during the event day to all visitors. We, at the El Paso Zoo, salute the military and the police officers who protect and serve every day.



ZOO INFO: El Paso Zoo 4001 E. Paisano, El Paso, Texas 79905-4223 (915) 521-1850, Fax (915) 521-1857 Admission: \$5 (Ages 13-61), \$4 (62+/ Active Duty Military with ID), \$3 (Ages 3-12), FREE: Ages 2 and under & El Paso Zoological Society Members: (915) 532-8156. Discounts for Active Duty Military with ID. Events & info: www.elpasozoo.org

The El Paso Zoo is open year round. Closed November 23, December 24, 25, 31 & January 1.
El Paso Zoo grounds close a half hour after the ticket booth closes. Ticket Booth Winter Hours: 9:30 – 4:00