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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Invites Community to Bug Fest 2025

Festival Features Insect Games, Bug Cook-Off

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens invites the community to celebrate the world of insects at Bug Fest from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18.

Sponsored by Truly Nolen, Bug Fest will be buzzing with all kinds of bugs and insects. Spiders, scorpions, crickets, to Madagascar hissing cockroaches, and much more will make their appearance in a large bug room.

Guests will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with these fascinating creatures while learning about their crucial roles in the ecosystem, including their habitats, behaviors, and contributions to the environment.

“Bugs are not the creepy crawlies you think they are,” said El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Director Joe Montisano. “They make our world a better place from pollination to maintaining balance in nature. The zoo is committed to providing educational experiences that inspire curiosity and appreciation for the natural world.”

Local news personalities and members of the El Paso Rhinos hockey team will take center stage in a Bug Cook-Off challenge at 1:30 p.m. on both days of the festival. Visitors can sample a variety of unique dishes featuring edible insects, including the ever-popular cricket cookies—a delicacy in many cultures.

Bugs are more than just critters that crawl, fly, squirm, or slither. They serve essential roles as pollinators, decomposers, and a crucial food source for other animals.

Bug Fest 2025 promises to be a fun, educational, and unforgettable experience for the entire community. For more information about Bug Fest and other events, programs, and services at the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens, visit www.ElPasoZoo.org.

About the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens stretch across 35-acres and house animals representing over 220 species, including critically endangered species.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**
Among All Members of the Community

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