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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Zoo & Botanical Gardens Says Farewell to Giraffe Brothers Advancing Conservation Efforts

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens is saying a heartfelt farewell to two beloved residents, giraffe brothers Obi and Tesoro, as they begin exciting new journeys that will support the long-term survival of their endangered species.

The young giraffes have been relocated as part of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums' Species Survival Plan, a nationwide conservation program that helps maintain healthy, genetically diverse animal populations through coordinated breeding and strategic partnerships.

Obi, a 3-year-old giraffe born at the El Paso Zoo in April 2023, has arrived at Longneck Manor in Fredericksburg, Texas, a specialized conservation park dedicated to giraffe care and preservation. As the first giraffe calf born at the El Paso Zoo through the Species Survival Plan, Obi will join a herd of females and contribute to efforts supporting endangered reticulated giraffe populations.

His younger brother, Tesoro, born in January 2025, is at ABQ BioPark in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where he will be introduced to a female giraffe as part of future breeding opportunities that support the species' long-term survival.

“Our two young giraffes will certainly be missed by both our Zoo team and the community,” said Interim Director Gary Lunsford. “While it’s never easy to say goodbye, we’re proud to see Obi and Tesoro play such an important role in conservation efforts that extend far beyond El Paso.”

The transition mirrors natural giraffe behavior in the wild, where young males leave their family groups, known as towers, to establish their own paths. Relocating the brothers at this stage helps reduce stress, supports their natural development, and creates space for future giraffe populations at the Zoo.

Obi and Tesoro are the offspring of longtime Zoo residents Gigi and Juma. Juma, who passed away in July 2025, was a foundational member of the Zoo’s Africa section and a beloved presence for more than a decade.

Through participation in the Species Survival Plan and coordinated partnerships nationwide, the Zoo remains committed to protecting wildlife, supporting sustainable animal populations, and inspiring the community to care for species at home and around the world.

For more information about conservation efforts supported by the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens, visit ElPasoZoo.org.

About the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

Spanning 35 acres, the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens is home to more than 220 animal species, including many that are critically endangered. The Zoo is dedicated to celebrating wildlife and inspiring the community to reconnect with nature through education, conservation, and unforgettable experiences.

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

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