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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Hosts Reptilia: A Family-Friendly Celebration of Snakes Event Raises Awareness About Snake Conservation

EL PASO, Texas—The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens invites the community to discover the fascinating world of snakes during *Reptilia: Celebration of Snakes* on Saturday, July 26.

This unique, family-friendly event offers guests the chance to learn about the vital role snakes play in our ecosystems and discover why these reptiles are more helpful than harmful.

“Celebrating snakes and educating the public, without harming these animals, is a powerful way to build community and protect the environment,” said El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Programs Manager Rick LoBello. “Snakes are apex predators that help control rodent populations, which reduces agricultural damage and the spread of diseases such as hantavirus, leptospirosis, tularemia, and salmonella.”

Throughout the day, visitors will encounter a variety of live snakes including, a Boa, Desert Kingsnake, Madagascar Giant Hognose, Python, and others from both the El Paso Zoo collection and private reptile enthusiasts. The event also features a special live snake demonstration by Wild Encounters at 10 a.m. in the Wildlife Amphitheater.

Guests will leave with a deeper understanding of snake behavior, their ecological importance, and practical ways to help protect them in the wild. Whether you're a snake enthusiast or simply curious, this event offers a safe, educational, and unforgettable experience for all ages.

For more information about Reptilia and other Zoo programs, visit www.ElPasoZoo.org.

About the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens spans 35 acres and is home to over 220 species from around the world, including critically endangered animals. The Zoo is open Wednesday through Thursday.

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

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