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**Grants boost Brevard Zoo events**

MELBOURNE, Fla., April 12, 2019 — Brevard Zoo’s Party for the Planet, an Earth Day celebration scheduled for Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., will be “more fun and impactful than ever” thanks to a grant from the Disney Conservation Fund (DCF).

The Zoo is hosting one of six signature events—the others will be held at facilities accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia and San Francisco—that help community members “spring into action” through volunteer opportunities.

“AZA-accredited facilities are experts at connecting families to nature. Party for the Planet offers families the perfect opportunity to visit their local AZA-accredited facility, celebrate the Earth’s biodiversity and learn how they can take action to make a difference,” said AZA president and CEO Dan Ashe. “The events our members have planned are inspiring and impactful, and I encourage families everywhere to find their local event and get involved.”

Through a second grant from AZA, the Zoo is organizing a family beach cleanup for Saturday, May 11 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Spessard Holland Beach Park in Melbourne Beach. After the cleanup, participants will be treated to a snack and activity in the beachside pavilion. All families will receive a grabber to take home and use in future cleanups. Registration is required to attend.

“We are extremely grateful to DCF and AZA for their generous contributions to these events,” said Keith Winsten, the Zoo’s executive director. “Through these gifts, we can continue to enable our community to effect change in a meaningful way.”

More information about Party for the Planet and registration for the beach cleanup are available at [www.brevardzoo.org/party-for-the-planet](http://www.brevardzoo.org/party-for-the-planet).

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*Brevard Zoo is home to more than 900 animals representing 195 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at [www.brevardzoo.org](http://www.brevardzoo.org).*

*Treetop Trek features five aerial obstacle courses that whisk guests above parts of the Zoo and through lush Florida landscapes. More information is available at [www.treetoptrek.com](http://www.treetoptrek.com).*