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# Bug Fest Returns to the El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens

## Fest Includes Bug Cooking Demos, Insect Games

**EL PASO, Texas**—The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens invites the community to celebrate the joy of bugs during Bug Fest which happens from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, and Sunday, May 19.

Sponsored by Truly Nolen, Bug Fest will be humming with all kinds of bugs and insects from spiders, scorpions, crickets, to Madagascar hissing cockroaches and much more. Visitors can get close and personal with these creepy critters in a large bug room while learning about the importance of bugs in the ecosystem. Bug Fest provides an opportunity to learn about the different types of bugs, their habitats, and their behaviors.

“Bugs are fascinating creatures, and we’re proud to be able to share them with visitors of all ages,” said El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Director Joe Montisano. “We get parents every year that are just as scared as the kids are, and it is good for them to see and learn how harmless bugs are. By teaching people about bugs and their importance, we hope to foster a sense of environmental responsibility and a desire to protect these often-misunderstood creatures.”

One of the highlights will be a bug cooking demonstration. Visitors can enjoy exquisite cuisine samples, including scorpions, crickets, ants, and giant water bugs. In addition, visitors will be able to meet hockey players from the El Paso Rhinos.

To learn more about Bug Fest and other events and programs at the El Paso Zoo, visit [www.ElPasoZoo.org](http://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. Accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the El Paso Zoo celebrates the value of animals and natural resources. It creates opportunities for people to rediscover their connection to nature.

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