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## El Paso Zoo Hosts Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta and World Rhino Day Celebration

**EL PASO, Texas** - The El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens, in partnership with the Chihuahuan Desert Education Coalition, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and Parque Central in Juarez, will host the 20th annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta on Saturday, September 21 and Sunday, September 22.

The two-day event will bring together professionals from all aspects of conservation from across the region to discuss innovative efforts and share information on restoring and preserving the desert.

After a successful event at the Zoo in 2023, zoo and community leaders will again convene to educate visitors about the Chihuahuan Desert. Guests will have an opportunity to visit the zoo exhibits and informational displays, observe animal encounter presentations, and explore nature by joining various discovery hikes at the Tom Mays Unit of Franklin Mountains State Park.

“We are thrilled to welcome back the Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta for the fifth time as a two-day event,” said El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens Education and Conservation Curator Rick LoBello. “The zoo and our partnering environmental and conservation groups are cultural stewards in the region dedicated to supporting education, research, wildlife conservation, and meaningful experiences that every member can enjoy.”

### **Saturday, September 21**

- Zoo Presentations

### **Sunday, September 22**

- Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta Hikes and Biodiversity Fair.
- Participants reserve a guided hike at [Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta Hike](#)
- Celebrate World Rhino Day on Sunday, September 22 with Taj, the Zoo’s Greater One-Horned Rhino. World Rhino Day raises awareness for all five species of rhinos and efforts to protect them. Guests will enjoy arts, special enrichment, and a presentation by Zoo education staff.

Schedules for both days are available on the Chihuahua Desert Education Coalition website: [20th Annual Chihuahuan Desert Fiesta](#). More information about El Paso Zoo and Botanical Gardens is available at [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. To learn more, visit [www.ElPasoZoo.org](http://www.ElPasoZoo.org).

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