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**For Immediate Release**

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**FRESNO CHAFFEE ZOO EARNS AZA ACCREDITATION**

*Fresno, CA* – For the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Fresno Chaffee Zoo has earned its accreditation from The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

All AZA accredited zoos and aquariums are required to go through an extensive review process which includes a thorough accreditation application and multiple days of on-site inspections by a team of experts from around the country.

Areas in the accreditation process that are evaluated include animal care, keeper training, visitor, guest and animal safety, education programs, conservation efforts, veterinary services, financial stability and visitor services.

“AZA is dedicated to ensuring that the highest standards in the zoological profession are met, and this means that the accreditation process is therefore quite rigorous,” said Jim Maddy, AZA President and CEO.

The Zoo first earned its AZA accreditation in 1979 and is a recent recipient of the AZA’s Quarter Century Award, which honors zoos and aquariums that have maintained AZA accreditation continuously for 25 years or more, highlighting their commitment to animal care, welfare, conservation and education.

“Continuing our accreditation through the AZA is of the utmost importance to us,” said Scott Barton, Fresno Chaffee Zoo CEO. “Being an accredited facility puts us amongst the top zoos and aquariums in the country and we are thrilled to have been able to maintain our accreditation consistently for over a quarter century.”

For more information about the AZA and its accreditation process, please visit [www.aza.org/accreditation](http://www.aza.org/accreditation).

*Fresno Chaffee Zoo is open daily at 9 a.m. Closing times vary 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. by season (subject to change without prior notice). Thanksgiving (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) and Christmas Day (closed). Visit [www.fresnochaffeezoo.org](http://www.fresnochaffeezoo.org) for current hours. General admission during regular Zoo hours is \$10 for adults and \$5.50 for children 2-11 & seniors 62+. Children under 2 and Fresno Chaffee Zoo members are free. Fresno Chaffee Zoo inspires wonder of our natural world, provides an engaging learning environment, and creates a passion for conservation. The Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).*

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