



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lubee Bat Conservancy Granted Prestigious AZA Certification

Silver Spring, Maryland (May 8, 2020) – The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) has announced that Lubee Bat Conservancy was granted certification by AZA's independent Accreditation Commission.

“Only the very best aquariums and zoos can meet AZA’s accreditation standards for animal care and welfare, conservation, education, and more, which are the most rigorous in the zoological profession,” said AZA President and CEO Dan Ashe. “By achieving AZA certification, Lubee Bat Conservancy demonstrates a commitment to protecting animals around the world and inspiring their guests to do the same.”

To be certified, Lubee Bat Conservancy underwent a thorough review to make certain it has and will continue to meet ever-rising standards in categories which include animal care and welfare, veterinary programs, conservation, education, and safety. AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous process every five years in order to be members of the Association.

The certification process includes a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo and aquarium professionals. The inspecting team observes all aspects of the facility’s operation, including animal care and welfare; keeper training; safety for visitors, staff and animals; educational programs; conservation efforts; veterinary programs; financial stability; risk management; visitor services; and more. Finally, top officials are interviewed at a formal hearing of AZA’s independent Accreditation Commission, after which certification is granted, tabled, or denied. Any facility that is denied may reapply one year after the Commission’s decision is made.

Lubee Bat Conservancy has been an AZA certified-related facility since 2005.

The AZA inspection team mentioned as particular strengths Lubee’s education program, commitment to conservation, and excellence in animal care, training, and enrichment.

About AZA

Founded in 1924, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of zoos and aquariums in the areas of conservation, animal welfare, education, science, and recreation. AZA is the accrediting body for the top zoos and aquariums in the United States and 12 other countries. Look for the AZA accreditation logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. The AZA is a leader in saving species and your link to helping animals all over the world. To learn more, visit www.aza.org.

About Lubee Bat Conservancy

Lubee Bat Conservancy is an international non-profit organization dedicated to saving bats and their habitats through research, conservation, and education, with a focus on children and community engagement. For over 30 years Lubee has placed conservation and education as its two core institutional purposes. Local and global education programs connect children with nature, foster environmental stewardship, and inspire the next generation of conservation scientists to become leaders within their communities.

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Please contact Brian Pope at Lubee Bat Conservancy at 352-485-1250 or visit www.lubee.org for additional information about the facility, including special events and activities for visitors and its ongoing commitment to wildlife conservation and science education.