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## **Celebrate Conservation at 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual ExZOOberation Saturday, April 8, 2017**

March 29, 2017 – *Jacksonville, FL* - Cocktails and conservation will delight guests at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens' 22<sup>nd</sup> annual ExZOOberation on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

Zoo supporters and animal enthusiasts will have the opportunity to learn about the Zoo's conservation efforts locally and around the globe while enjoying hors d'oeuvres, a gourmet buffet-dinner, and the conservation-themed Bacardi Cocktail Safari. The gardens will be filled with music as guests dance to entertainment by the Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville, the Super Martin Brothers and Empire East.

Partygoers will explore the Range of the Jaguar and the Gardens of Trout River Plaza with up-close animal encounters, conservation stations highlighting the Zoo's commitment to saving species including the imperiled Western striped newt, and a silent auction featuring exclusive behind-the-scenes experiences. VIP guests are invited to a special African Veldt experience with a zookeeper-guided tour of the African Loop and extra animal interactions.

Guests are encouraged to break out their best garden-party white for Jacksonville's *wildest* Spring soiree.

Tickets for ExZOOberation start at \$125 per person and can be purchased at [exzooberation.jacksonvillezoo.org](http://exzooberation.jacksonvillezoo.org). Proceeds from the event go to the care and feeding of the Zoo's 2,000 residents and to the support of conservation initiatives in Northeast Florida and around the globe. To date, ExZOOberation has raised more than 3.3 million dollars for the Zoo.

For more information about ExZOOberation, email [specialevents@jacksonvillezoo.org](mailto:specialevents@jacksonvillezoo.org).

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### **About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens**

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast Florida. The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and a portion of every ticket sold goes to the over 45 conservation initiatives Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports around the world, and here in NE Florida. JZG is proud to be an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit [jacksonvillezoo.org](http://jacksonvillezoo.org).