

**Brookfield Zoo Carousel (New)
Opening Summer 2006**

Take a spin as Brookfield Zoo opens one of the largest hand-carved wooded carousels in the country. The carousel, features 72 animals, three chariots, and tons of fun for the whole family. Located near the zoo's North Gate entrance, whimsical animal figures and music will delight up to 5,000 riders per day.

April 22 (Saturday)

Water is one of those resources we all use and depend on every day. But conserving it is important and sometimes a challenge. We'll provide some facts and tips to help you be water wise! And there's more....Chat with keepers to get an inside scoop on the zoo's animals. Sneak a peek behind the scenes at some of the zoo's high-tech facilities. Roll up your sleeves and help the zoo's horticulturalists manage some of its forested areas by planting acorns and pulling invasive garlic mustard plants. There will be music, fun learning games, and plenty to see and do that will remind us all just how cool Mother Earth can be!

Dia del Niño

May 13-14 (Saturday-Sunday)

The Day of the Child is celebrated around the world. It is especially important in Mexico and Central America, where children are honored by their families and teachers. It is a chance for families to come together in celebration of the young. In this first Dia del Niño celebration at Brookfield Zoo, families can enjoy plenty of games, activities, music, and dance performances especially for kids.

Butterflies! at Brookfield Zoo

Late May – mid-September

Come walk among several hundred butterflies at Brookfield Zoo's *Butterflies!* More than 40 species of these delicate and beautiful creatures are on display seasonally beginning May 27. The butterflies' habitat is full of a variety of regional flowering annuals and perennials for their enjoyment and yours. So come see the beauty of fluttering buckeyes, longwings, Julias, and many other species of North American butterflies.

Zoo Stars

June 10-11 and 17-18;

July 15-16 and 22-23; and

August 12-13 and 19-20 (Saturdays-Sundays)

Many may know that Metra's train "Hollywood/Zoo Stop" is just minutes from Brookfield Zoo, but visitors should expect to be really star-struck when they visit the zoo this summer! Weekends celebrations highlighting some of the zoo's most amazing animals will feature fun for the entire family. Brookfield Zoo will announce 12 celebrity animals to be inducted into its own "Walk of Fame." During select weekends in June, July, and August, guests can join in the red carpet festivities that include star unveilings with "celebrity" appearances, live music, fun games and crafts, contests, parades, and giveaways. If you can make it past the paparazzi, this will be the place for the in crowd all summer long!

Beanie Baby Days

August 12-13 (Saturday-Sunday)

The first 4,000 children 11 and under who visit Brookfield Zoo August 12 and 13 will receive a free Beanie Baby compliments of Ty. Kids can also play fun games or browse through hundreds of Beanie Babies and Ty products on sale. For further information, call 708-485-0263.

Fiesta para Todos**September 16-17 (Saturday-Sunday)**

Bring *la familia* to Brookfield Zoo and join in a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. During Fiesta para Todos or "Party for All," visitors can experience traditional folkloric dance, food, and music. Guests can also meet animals native to South America, Central America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. Included among the list is the most endangered species of bear, known as the spectacled bear; the lengthy boa constrictor; the Mexican fruit bat; and the agile spider monkey.

Boo! at the Zoo**October 21-22, and 28-29 (Saturdays-Sundays)**

Put on your Halloween costume and come to Brookfield Zoo's Boo! at the Zoo. The annual Halloween celebration will have frightfully fun activities and entertainment, a chance to view hundreds of the best witches, ghosts, and goblins in Chicagoland, and a bag of treats for the kids. Bats will flutter, snakes will slither, and owls will hoot during Zoo Chats when keepers will talk about these not-so-scary creatures. Other activities include a Costume Parade and Showcase and pumpkin carving demonstrations.

Holiday Magic**Dates TBD**

Celebrate the holiday season with family and friends at Brookfield Zoo's 25th annual Holiday Magic, featuring nearly one million twinkling lights illuminating the zoo's walkways. Festive activities include ice-carving demonstrations, carolers, family entertainment, visits with Santa and costumed characters, "Sing to the Animals," photo opportunities with Children's Zoo animals, a special "Zoo Year's Eve" celebration, and much more! Of course, many of the zoo's animal exhibits are open, as are gift shops and restaurants.