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*****News Release*****

SAN FRANCISCO ZOO SUPPORTS TEACHERS WITH FREE ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Teachers can explore, learn and enjoy the Zoo's living classroom

SAN FRANCISCO (February 8, 2010) – Last week, the San Francisco Zoo announced that it will honor and support San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) teachers by offering a complimentary year-long membership. By opening its gates for free, the Zoo hopes teachers will utilize the Zoo's outdoor classroom to help build curriculum programs in all subjects - from math and science to history and language arts.

As deep budget cuts hit the city of San Francisco and impact education programs everywhere, the Zoo continues to stand behind its mission and will provide teachers with more educational resources to connect their students with wildlife. Charismatic animals are often a great way to engage and capture the attention of children. Teachers can now utilize the Zoo to build out a diverse array of content that meets California standards. For example, a third grade teacher can create a lesson plan around the Zoo's beloved patas monkeys—a primate that can reach running speed of up to 35 miles per hour—using math (conversions, ratios and rates) and life science (physical adaption of plants and animals).

"The Zoo is a living classroom that inspires children every single day," said Joe Fitting, vice president of education and conservation at the San Francisco Zoo. "It's a tough time across the board for everyone, especially our educators, and the Zoo is committed to giving back to the community and helping teachers continue to inspire their students."

The individual membership is for all current SFUSD teachers. Teachers must register online at www.sfzoo.org between February 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010 and have a valid SFUSD identification number. The membership includes free admission to exclusive member events, discounts on education classes, Zoo camps and activities for kids and adults, subscription to Zoo Views magazine, a 10 percent discount at all Zoo shops and cafés and free or discounted admission to more than 120 zoos and aquariums nationwide. The membership does not include other adults or children, but does admit children under four for free.

"It is truly a challenging time for educators and resources continue to disappear," said Jenny Mac, first grade teacher at John Yehall Chin Elementary School. "The Zoo always strives to

support teachers and their students and these types of programs assist in educating young minds and encouraging future generations.”

The SFUSD currently receives free admission for classes and field trips, which can include a Docent led tour. In addition, San Francisco elementary schools have the opportunity to participate in the Zoo’s popular *Wild About Art and Science* program. The Zoo also offers significant discounts for school groups outside of San Francisco with an advanced reservation. For more information on how to receive a free teacher membership, please email teachers@sfzoo.org or call 415.753.7073. To learn more about all the Zoo's education programs visit www.sfzoo.org

About the San Francisco Zoo

Encompassing 100 acres, the historic San Francisco Zoo is Northern California’s largest zoological park. The Zoo is home to exotic and rescued animals from all over the world and is located across from the Pacific Ocean. The African Savanna offers a multi-species landscape with giraffes, zebras, kudu, ostriches and more. Go nose to nose with famed grizzly sisters Kachina and Kiona at Grizzly Gulch; watch lemurs leap through the largest outdoor lemur habitat in the country; visit Penguin Island; marvel at our troop of gorillas; and feed farm animals in the popular Children’s Zoo. Take rides on one of the world’s only old-fashioned miniature steam trains and the historic Dentzel Carousel. The Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is located at 1 Zoo Road, San Francisco (415) 753-7080. Visit www.sfzoo.org for more information.