

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brevard Zoo Names 2022 Volunteers of the Year

MELBOURNE, Fla., April 17, 2023 — At its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Brevard Zoo announced its 2022 Volunteers of the Year, Michael Musick and Norm Desrosiers. These two individuals were recognized for their outstanding service based on recommendations from Zoo staff and other volunteers.

Michael Musick moved to Florida in 2010 and got a Brevard Zoo membership after visiting. He fell in love with the Zoo and began talking to volunteers on his visits to see how he could get involved. Just before he retired, Michael put in his application! He has now been a Zoo volunteer for four years and serves as a Day Captain. In this role, he oversees the other volunteers on duty.

Michael has donated over 2,800 hours of his time to the Zoo. He is passionate about animals and what our Zoo does to promote education and conservation. Michael is known by other volunteers for his willingness to help wherever needed, often adding shifts as needed and lending a helping hand.

Norm Desrosiers began visiting the Zoo when he was active-duty Air Force and was stationed at Patrick Air Force Base. All of his life, Norm took care of animals like horses and chickens. He started volunteering in Paws On at the “touch tank” for around a year before switching to maintenance. Norm donates his time to maintenance projects around the facility. He even has his own radio number to be identified!

Norm has worked with the Zoo’s maintenance department for four years now, showing up at 6:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays for his shift (and adding in extra days as needed). His favorite parts of volunteering are working on special projects with maintenance staff and getting a unique view of the Zoo! He will soon spend most of his time in Expedition Africa working on some exciting upcoming renovations with the rest of the maintenance team. So far, Norm has donated over 3,200 hours to the Zoo!

Michael and Norm are just two examples of the incredible volunteers who dedicate their time to Brevard Zoo. Volunteers make it possible for the Zoo to fulfill its important mission work in the areas of animal wellness, conservation and education.

In total, volunteers donated 110,954 hours of their time to the Zoo in 2022. Their dedication saved the Zoo \$1.5 million dollars last year, equating to 48 full-time employees!

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About Brevard Zoo

Brevard Zoo is home to more than 900 animals representing 195 species from all over the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education, and conservation. More information is available at www.brevardzoo.org.

Treetop Trek features five aerial obstacle courses that whisk guests above parts of the Zoo and through lush Florida landscapes. More information is available at www.treetoptrek.com.