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Wild Tales: A Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Story

In this personal profile, I draw inspiration from Ryan Jones' 'A Fighter's Chance' to delve into my immersive exploration and experience of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. My subject is a renowned institution dedicated to wildlife preservation and public education, alongside facts that make this zoo a bucket list choice of many, a go-to place for peace of mind, and a knowledgebase for wildlife enthusiasts. The profile will highlight the zoo's wildlife conservation efforts, rehabilitation plans, and educational programs that I consider important in the current world. Join me as I unveil the untold stories of resilience, cooperation, and hope that lies within the walls of this iconic zoological park.

According to Kolbert, human activities have deeply contributed to the current mass extinction of wildlife, thus necessitating the need for the urgent need for conservation efforts to protect the wildlife ecosystem. I had the privilege of interacting with Suzanne "Suzy" Kramer Lucci, a dedicated staff member at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Suzy's extensive experience and passion for wildlife conservation were evident as she shared insights into the zoo's conservation efforts and educational programs. With the current trends where some animals are going extinct, there is a need to ensure that we put into practice wildlife conservation measures. This is what is happening at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Intervention measures have been put into place to ensure that endangered species are not going extinct, but instead are conserved. One of the reasons why wildlife is conserved is to ensure that future generations have a glimpse of them, another one is to ensure that there

is a balance in the ecosystem. The zoo has put into place practices such as captive breeding for endangered species like cheetahs and manatees, habitat restoration, and protection like restoring wetlands and degraded wildlife habitats for endangered species. Furthermore, they are undertaking mass education and public awareness on the threats imposed by humans on endangered species.

I recently attended the UnExtinct event at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, and it truly left a lasting impression on me. Stepping into this wonderfully crafted after-hours experience was like entering a new world where imagination ran wild. Using modern technology, the event brought to life more than 70 extinct and endangered species, initiating deeply guided discussions about the importance of conservation. From the intriguing visuals to the immersive atmosphere, every moment of the event was filled with wonder. The event's evening hours, which were equally designed to maximize the impact of the darkness, added an extra touch of mystery to the program. The zoo packages the event with themed nights like VIP Nights and Adults Only Nights, and I can surely say that there was something for everyone to enjoy. The program has been created to engage the public in discovering more than 70 extinct and endangered animals that are at the zoo and runs on select Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., from March to April. As I explored, I couldn't help but be reminded of the urgent need for wildlife conservation and our collective responsibility to protect our planet's biodiversity. UnExtinct wasn't just an evening of entertainment; it was a powerful reminder of our role in safeguarding our natural world.

A typical day at the zoo is usually bustling with activity, whether it's a group of students exploring on a school trip, families enjoying quality time together, or community events like team-building activities or corporate gatherings. The zoo is capable of handling people of all ages and backgrounds, offering a diverse range of experiences. From fun-filled events like Boo at the Zoo during Halloween to informative conservation lectures,

educational field trips, and outreach programs, there's definitely something for everyone. Through initiatives focused on education, accessibility, and partnerships, the zoo aims to enrich the relationship between people and nature, empowering individuals from all backgrounds to love and protect the future of wildlife and wild places. These initiatives ensure that the zoo engages with the community in meaningful ways. By maximizing community engagement and raising public awareness about wildlife conservation and preservation, the zoo plays a vital role in fostering a deeper connection between people and the natural world (Jacobson, McDuff, and Monroe 8). Through collaborative efforts and partnerships, the zoo continues to positively impact both the lives of community members and the broader wildlife ecosystem.

I'm truly moved by the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's global impact and influence in the field. International conservation collaborations and associations collectively amplify the efforts of wildlife conservation and protection for future generations. The zoo's dedication to international collaborations and associations underscores its commitment to amplifying efforts for the protection of wildlife and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. As a member of prestigious organizations like the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Zoological Association of America, the zoo is recognized as a significant player on the global stage of wildlife conservation. Moreover, its participation in events such as the Rwandan Fete exemplifies its dedication in addressing conservation challenges beyond its borders. By engaging in initiatives like these, the zoo demonstrates its unwavering commitment to preserving biodiversity and fostering partnerships with like-minded organizations worldwide.

Concluding my exploration of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, I'm deeply impressed by its strong commitment to wildlife conservation. From my conversations with Suzy Lucci to my visit to the UnExtinct event, I've seen firsthand the dedication of the zoo's

staff and visitors. Their efforts to protect endangered species and preserve biodiversity are truly inspiring and serve as a wakeup call to other players in the field to embrace wildlife conservation. The zoo's active engagement with the community and collaborations worldwide highlights its important role in raising awareness and taking action to safeguard our planet's natural treasures. As we face environmental challenges, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium serve as an example of how joined action and efforts can make a difference in preserving our world for future generations.

Works Cited

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