



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

Over 1,000 Learn About NY Animals, Protecting The Planet At Free Family Zoo Day

PATTY RITCHIE August 16, 2017



Over 1,000 children and families were given opportunities to learn about New York State animals and the importance of protecting the planet at a “Free Family Zoo Day” hosted by State Senator Patty Ritchie Tuesday at the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park in Watertown.

The event featured free admission for families, unique animal exhibits, hands-on activities, refreshments and more.

“The New York State Zoo at Thompson Park is a gem of the North Country that helps teach people—especially children—not only about animals, but also about how critical it is that we work together to protect the environment,” said Senator Ritchie.

“I would like to thank the Zoo for partnering with me to make this special event possible, and am thrilled that so many families were able to experience all it has to offer.”

“Tuesday’s Free Family Zoo Day provided us with an opportunity to introduce people of all ages to our Zoo and the animals that call it home,” said Lesley Clark, Director of the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park. “We would like to thank Senator Ritchie for working with us to make this event a success and are hopeful families will come back and see us again soon.”

Recently, Senator Ritchie secured \$100,000 in special funding for the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park, which will help to improve current exhibits and animal holding spaces at the Zoo.

Established in 1920, the Zoo is one of the top tourist attractions in the Thousand Islands Region, attracting nearly 50,000 visitors per year.

No taxpayer funds were utilized to support the event.

Attn. photo editors: Senator Ritchie is joined in the above photo with her grandchildren at the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park during the “Free Family Zoo Day.”