



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## **More Than 1,000 People "Go Wild" at Senator Ritchie's "Family Zoo Day"**

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State Senator Patty Ritchie welcomed more than 1,000 children and family members to the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park in Watertown Thursday for her annual “Family Zoo Day”. The free event is designed to encourage young people to get outside and get active, as well as learn more about New York State animals.

“Family Zoo Day” featured a number of children’s activities including a ‘Zoo Animal Search’—where children could win special prizes—unique animal exhibits, local organizations sponsoring educational activities and free snacks and refreshments

offered by Senator Ritchie.

“‘Family Zoo Day’ is one of my favorite days of the year. It is so much fun to see so many children with smiles on their faces, enjoying their summer, all while learning about animals and the importance of getting outside—and active—at the same time,” Senator Ritchie said. “I would like to thank the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park for partnering with me to make this year’s ‘Family Zoo Day’ better than ever.

Senator Ritchie’s “Family Zoo Day” would not have been possible without the participation of a number of local community groups, including:

- The Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program
- Jefferson County Public Health
- The Minna Anthony Common Nature Center
- North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Inc.
- Community Action Planning Council
- The Jefferson County Historical Society
- Zumbini with Amy

*(Senator Ritchie is pictured at her “Family Zoo Day” handing out animal masks to children as they entered the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park Thursday)*