



## Most Valuable Resources

Our community recently voted on "most valuable resources" submitted to our resource library. Congratulations to our winners!



1. Anthropomorphism's Role in Fostering Empathy for Wildlife Literature Review



2. Best Practices in Developing Empathy Toward Wildlife



3. Wildlife Trafficking and Biofact Literature Review



## Haven't made your account yet?

1. Check your inbox for your welcome to the Network email from [empathy@zoo.org](mailto:empathy@zoo.org).
2. Click on the link in the email to create your account. **OR** Check your inbox for an email from Discourse

## Created your account?

1. Go to [www.aceforwildlife.org](http://www.aceforwildlife.org)
2. Click "log in" in the top right hand corner
3. Scroll down, click "log in", and enter your information



ADVANCING  
CONSERVATION  
THROUGH  
**EMPATHY FOR  
WILDLIFE®**

Annual Network  
Fall Meeting



***The Advancing Conservation through Empathy for Wildlife (ACE for Wildlife®) Network facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and data to drive conservation change through fostering empathy for animals and the environment that sustains them.***



27 Partner Organizations  
400+ Members



400+ Affiliates

[www.aceforwildlife.org](http://www.aceforwildlife.org)



# TODAY'S AGENDA

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Empathy Excellence Award Announcement

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Network updates

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Committee call for service & bylaw reminder

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Empathy Measurement in Zoos & Aquariums Project update

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Icebreaker activity

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Comparing Empathy for Wildlife Across the Animal Kingdom

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*BREAK*

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Network presentations

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Dismissal



# **Empathy Excellence Award Announcements**



## **Empathy Excellence Award**

In the category of Outstanding achievement for empathy projects  
within one department:



# Empathy Excellence Award

## Minnesota Zoo's *Bringing Empathy for Animals to Traditionally Underserved Audiences*

**BEST PRACTICES**  
FOR DELIVERING AMBASSADOR ANIMAL PROGRAMS TO NEW AUDIENCES

ZOO LEADERSHIP & STAFF	EMPATHIC DESIGN	COLLABORATION	OUTREACH PROGRAMS	EVALUATION & DISSEMINATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provide staff and volunteer training</li><li>• Zoo leadership &amp; administration as program supporters</li><li>• Have a growth mindset</li><li>• Plan around practical constraints</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create outreach programs for underserved populations</li><li>• Get to know your audience, and responsively listen to them</li><li>• Design programs that match participants' needs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nurture trusting relationships and community partnerships</li><li>• Invite representative community members to advisory roles</li><li>• Collaborate with other like-minded zoos</li><li>• Collaborate with academics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Include a variety of ambassador animals</li><li>• Integrate best practices of zoo educational programs</li><li>• Think creatively for broader access</li><li>• Use technology to broaden outreach even further</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adapt evaluation data to participants' needs</li><li>• Widely disseminate programs and knowledge gained</li></ul>

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## **Empathy Excellence Award**

In the category of Outstanding achievement for multi-departmental empathy project at a small zoo:



# Empathy Excellence Award

**Henry Vilas Zoo's *Interpretive Master Plan Focused on Empathy, Inclusivity, and Individual Animal Connection***





## **Empathy Excellence Award**

In the category of Outstanding achievement for multi-departmental empathy project at a large zoo:



# Empathy Excellence Award

**Zoological Society of Milwaukee's *Infusing Empathy into Biofacts Programs***





# Network Updates



# 2026 Empathy Summit

**When:** February 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Where:** 100% virtual together on Zoom!

**Topic sampling:**

Empathy in the  
every day

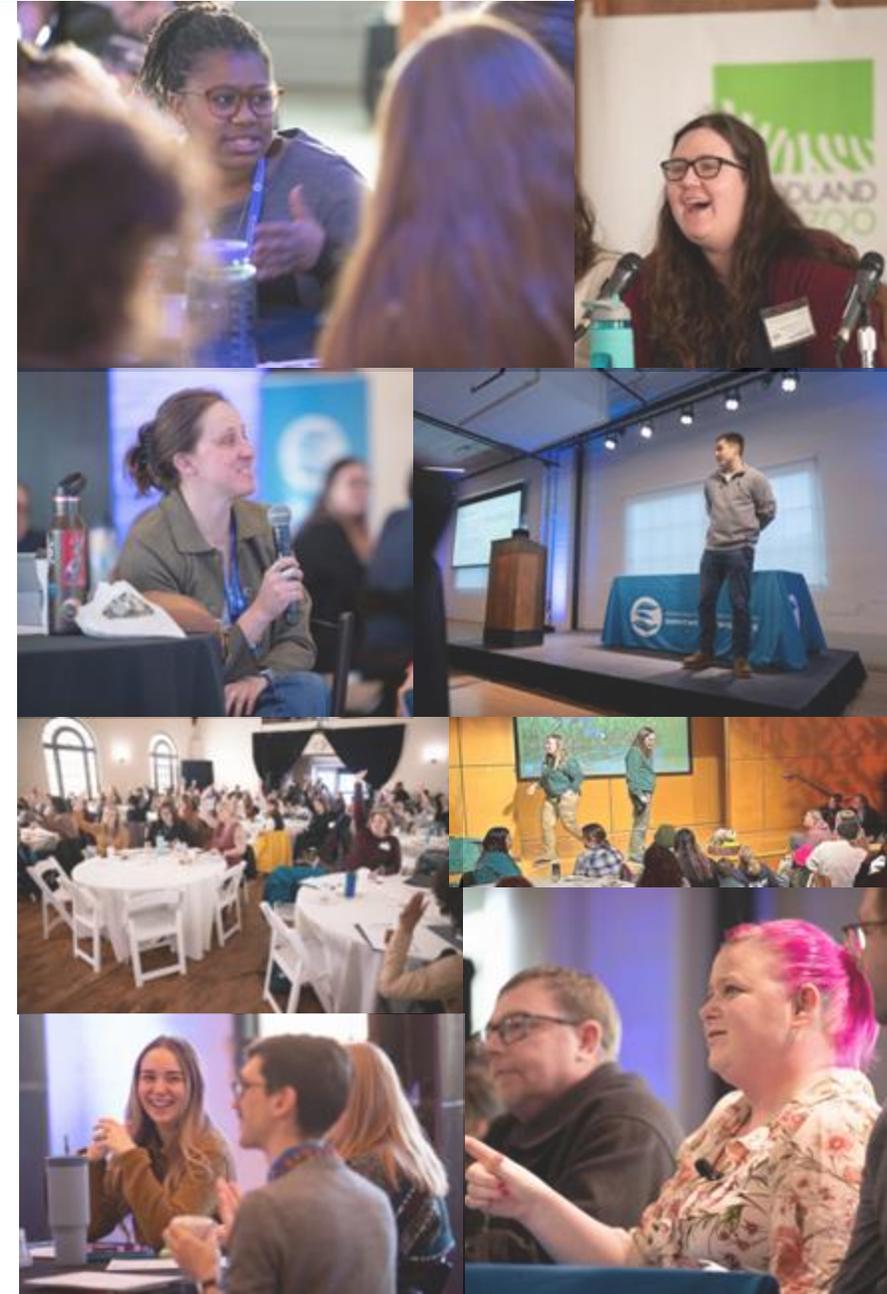
Intersectionality of  
empathy for wildlife  
and DEAI initiatives

Empathy evaluation

Empathy's  
relationship to  
animal wellbeing

And more!

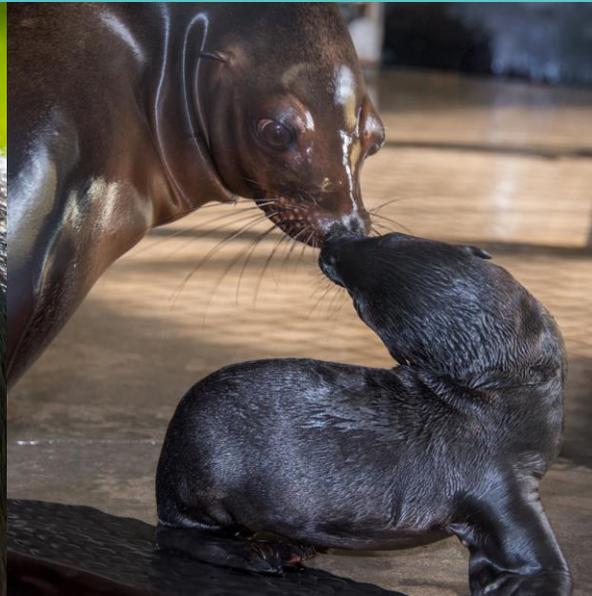
**Call for presentations posted 10/23!**





# 2025 Empathy Photo Contest

**Submissions close 10/31**





# Committee call for service

- **Call for service period ends October 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm**
- Open seats on the: Communications Committee, DEAI Committee, Membership Committee, Steering Committee
- Terms begin in December 2025 and extend through December 2027, with the option for extension

Learn more at [www.aceforwildlife.org/leadership-opps](http://www.aceforwildlife.org/leadership-opps)





# Updates from Steering & Membership Committees

## Network bylaws

- Passed the Network bylaws in May of this year
- Included changes to Network committee structure, Partner participation requirements

## Network expansion plan

- Revised the Network expansion plan in spring of this year
- This new expansion plan provides clearer criteria on Partner eligibility and a more robust application process
- Linked in the bylaws
- **Deadline for Partner applications: March 31<sup>st</sup>**

Find these documents on [www.aceforwildlife.org/about-us](http://www.aceforwildlife.org/about-us)



# **Empathy Measurement in Zoos & Aquariums Project (EMZAAP) Update**



# EMZAAP Update

After a successful summer of piloting at WPZ, we have drafts of...

- a survey instrument for empathy stimulated by zoo and aquarium experiences
- A method for measuring emotions toward animals and perceptions of animals' emotions with elementary and early childhood audiences
- A new observation tool designed for early childhood audiences

Stay tuned for opportunities to provide feedback and test instruments.





# Icebreaker activity



# 10 Things in Common

**Time:** ~15 minutes

**Instructions:** In your breakout rooms, you are tasked with identifying 10 things that you all share in common. This can include places you visited, jobs you've done, hobbies you have, favorite foods, etc. Elect someone in your room to keep a tally of not only how many commonalities you have identified, but what those commonalities are.

