

Assiniboine Park Zoo Invites Public to Help Name Baby White-Handed Gibbon

For immediate release: Winnipeg, November 15, 2023 – The Assiniboine Park Zoo is inviting the public to help choose a name for the newest member of the Zoo’s white-handed gibbon family by participating in an online naming poll, which can be accessed at assiniboinepark.ca/babygibbon.

The young gibbon was born on October 23 and is the third offspring for Maya (female, 12) and Samson (male, 21), who were matched in 2017 on a recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan® Program. The Zoo’s gibbon family also includes older siblings Salju (female, 4), who was born in February 2019, and Merrick (male, 2), who was born in March 2021. While the Zoo’s animal care team believes the new gibbon is female, its sex has not been confirmed.

White-handed gibbons are small, arboreal apes found mainly in tropical rainforests in Southeast Asia, where palm oil production is on the rise.

“Here at the Zoo, our gibbons act as ambassadors for their species, which is endangered due primarily to severe habitat loss and hunting,” said Dr. Chris Enright, Senior Director of Zoological Operations, Animal Management and Conservation, Assiniboine Park Conservancy. “Gibbons are charismatic, active, and engaging creatures and we hope this little one will inspire our Zoo visitors to take action to protect wildlife around the world and here in Canada.”

The Zoo’s animal care team has identified a short list of name options starting with the letters M and S in honour of baby gibbon’s older siblings, mother Maya, father Samson, and grandfather Mel, who also lived at Assiniboine Park Zoo.

Voters may choose from the following options:

1. Minerva – the Roman goddess of wisdom
2. Maavi – meaning precious
3. Malai – meaning garland of flowers
4. Supanee – meaning fast

Voters have until midnight on Sunday, November 19 to cast their ballot. Results will be announced on social media.

The Zoo is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit our [website](#).

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For interviews and information requests, please contact:
Laura Cabak, Director, Communications & Public Relations
E: lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca C: 204-795-0091