



GreatZoo.org



ButterflyHouseAquarium.org

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **ZooMobile Gets Fresh New Look**

**SIOUX FALLS:**

The Great Plains Zoo (GPZ) is excited to unveil our ZooMobile's fresh new look!

The ZooMobile's previous wrap was showing its age, and it was time for an update. Support from Sammons Financial, an enthusiastic supporter of GPZ's education outreach programs, made the refresh possible.

Since 2016, Sammons has provided support for GPZ's Title I ZooMobile program. This funding covers costs associated with bringing ZooMobiles to South Dakota schools that qualify for Title I schoolwide support, up to 150 miles from the zoo.

Since GPZ's Title I ZooMobile visits began in 2016, zoo educators have traveled 26,986 miles and seen 26,034 students – including 1,037 kids already in 2023.

"Many of the schools that we visit through this program would not otherwise be able to provide a zoo field trip or ZooMobile visit for their students," said GPZ/BHA Education Director Leigh Spencer. "The kids are always so excited and the teachers are so appreciative. Learning experiences that include live animals are memorable and valuable, and we are grateful to Sammons for giving these students this opportunity."

Sammons is also a dedicated supporter of ZooCamps and the [Zoo for All](#) program, which provides discounted zoo admission for visitors receiving government assistance. Zoo for All has expanded in 2023 to include not just South Dakota residents, but qualifying residents of Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska, as well.

The new vehicle wrap features a wide variety of animals, including Oscar the parrot, Oliver the red panda, and Archimedes the great horned owl. It was designed by Patty Solis of Sioux Falls.

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*The Great Plains Zoo is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) – a leader in wildlife conservation. Fewer than 10% of animal institutions in the United States have met the high standards for AZA accreditation.*

*The Butterfly House & Aquarium is a non-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the conservation of the vital building blocks of sea, sky, and land.*

**Our Mission: Creating connection and protecting our natural world**