

MARYLAND ZOO

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
7 April 2017

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GRIZZLY CUBS “BIG BEAR” AND “LITTLE BEAR” NOW HAVE NAMES!

BALTIMORE, MD – Thanks to thousands of grizzly bear fans, The Maryland Zoo is happy to announce that the orphaned bear cubs now have official names. Next time you come to the Zoo, please say hello to Nova and Nita!

“Big bear” is now Nova, a Native American word which means "chasing butterflies," and “Little bear” is Nita, a Native American word for "bear." Nova and Nita were one of the name pairs presented for the contest from a few different sources, including the anonymous donor who helped to pay for the bears’ transportation to Baltimore, the Consolidated Salish and Kootenai tribe and the Polar Bear Watch animal care team members.

By the time voting closed at 8:00 am on Wednesday morning, Nova and Nita had runaway with 29% of the vote, with over 6,000 votes cast. Click here to see video of the official name reveal with the cubs' animal care team.

Nova and Nita can be seen daily at Polar Bear Watch from 10:00 am until 2:30pm. The grizzly bear exhibit and the naming contest are proudly sponsored by Garrison Forest School, home of the Garrison Forest Grizzlies. We encourage guests to check our website, www.marylandzoo.org and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/marylandzoo) for updates and schedules prior to visiting.

About The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Founded in 1876, The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is the third oldest zoo in the United States and is internationally known for its contributions in conservation and research. More than 1,500 animals are represented in the Zoo’s varied natural habitat exhibits in areas such as the award-winning Penguin Coast, Polar Bear Watch, the Maryland Wilderness, African Journey and the Children’s Zoo. Situated in Druid Hill Park near downtown Baltimore, the Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. For more information, visit www.marylandzoo.org.

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