



NATIONAL AVIARY
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Press Release

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National Aviary's *Penguin Connection* Offers Up-close Encounter in Small Group Setting

The National Aviary has a special experience for penguin fans—a one-hour, up-close encounter with the Aviary's popular African Penguins.

Penguin Connection gives visitors the rare opportunity spend time with a live penguin. During the program guests view a short presentation on penguins, their natural history and care, and the challenges they face in the wild. One of the National Aviary's African Penguins – Stanley, Simon, Elvis or Patrick – is then brought out and allowed to walk freely among the group. Guests can offer toys to the bird, and watch as he plays and interacts with his visitors. The program also includes 20 minutes of supervised contact time during which guests have the opportunity to touch the penguin.

At the end of the hour, guests can opt to have their photo taken with the penguin. Registration is limited to a maximum of eight people per day, ensuring an intimate experience for all participants.

"The small group format of *Penguin Connection* enables people to meet and interact with the birds in a quiet and personal setting," says Nicole Begley, Supervisor of Animal Programs at the National Aviary. "Our penguins are among the most beloved birds at the Aviary, and this is an unforgettable opportunity to get close to and learn about these remarkable birds."

Penguin Connection is open to ages six and up; children ages 6-14 must be accompanied by a paying adult. Three weeks advance registration required. Class size limited to eight people.

Class fee is \$40 members; \$35 nonmembers, which includes general admission to the National Aviary and to all daily activities. Group size limited to eight people. Cameras are not allowed in the program. CDs with photos of your experience will be available after the program for \$10 per CD. To register, contact the Education Program Scheduler at 412-323-7235 ext. 209 or email education.programs@aviary.org. Penguin Connection Gift Certificates available.

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