



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## BRING THE FAMILY TO CONSERVATORY EXPLORE NIGHTS

Columbus, OH – Come and enjoy all the fun summer has to offer at Franklin Park Conservatory! New this summer, in June, July and August, we will be open late for a new Special Engagement: *Conservatory Explore Nights*. Each night will offer a lively festival experience including: live entertainment, food trucks, facilitated discovery stations, signature cocktails & mocktails, crafts, and a scavenger hunt. Each month has a different theme, so be sure to enjoy them all.

Tickets will be available for purchase beginning Tuesday, May 9 at 11am.

### ***Conservatory Explore Nights: Backyard Bug Adventures (June 10, 5-9pm)***

Explore Ohio native bugs through a hands-on investigation at this Discovery Station. Guests will learn how to identify different types of insects and the importance of bugs in our ecosystem.

The Scavenger Hunt for *Backyard Bug Adventures* will explore the relationship between plants and insects. Each family will be tasked with finding hidden bugs throughout the Conservatory. Families that complete the Scavenger hunt will earn a prize.

And, *Backyard Bug Adventures* would not be complete without a visit from Mark Berman, the Bugman. The Bugman will be on-hand with his friends to talk about the importance of bugs in our ecosystem.

Refreshments will be available throughout the night from the Big Bite Food Truck, Graeter's Ice Cream Cart and Franklin Park Conservatory's Food Truck. Also available for purchase, a signature cocktail for adults called, The Creepy Crawler and a non-alcoholic drink for kids called, Bug Juice.

### ***Conservatory Explore Nights: Red, White & Bloom (July 8, 5-9pm)***

Look through the eyes of a butterfly to create your own flower with hidden designs at the *Red, White & Bloom's* Discovery Station and search for colors and patterns around the Conservatory during the Scavenger Hunt.

Additional entertainment for the evening includes, chalk artist: Lori Hughes from 6-8pm, live performances from The Shazzbots from 6-8pm and various backyard games throughout the event.

Refreshments will be available throughout the night from Tortilla Street Food Truck, ChillJoy Ice Cream and Shaved Ice and Franklin Park Conservatory's Food Truck. Also available for purchase, a signature cocktail for adults, a Red Vodka Spritzer and a mocktail for kids called, The Little Firework.

### ***Conservatory Explore Nights: Splish, Splash, Explore (August 5, 5-9pm)***

Investigate and identify insects living in local streams and ponds at the Discovery Station and explore around the Conservatory as you seek to find the different water features and learn about the fish and friends living in them.

Special entertainment for *Splish, Splash, Explore* will be a real mermaid from 6-8pm in the Sandstone Creek! The Conservatory also invites kids to dress up like their favorite water-themed characters whether that's pirates, fish, little mermaids, or dolphins. We want to see them.

Refreshments will be available throughout the night from the Ono Ono Toro Food Truck, ChillJoy Ice Cream and Shaved Ice and Franklin Park Conservatory's Food Truck. Also available for purchase, a signature cocktail for adults called, The Tippy Mermaid and a mocktail for kids called, The Little Mermaid.

*Conservatory Explore Nights* are special engagements and require [special engagement tickets](#). All guests are encouraged to reserve tickets in advance to guarantee admission and make check in more efficient.

For more information on all the Conservatory has to offer, please visit [fpconservatory.org](http://fpconservatory.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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*Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers world-class horticulture, art and nature-based exhibitions, and educational programs for all ages. Situated on 40 acres on the eastern side of Franklin Park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House; 83,000 square feet of glasshouses; botanical gardens including the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden; and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns the largest collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly in a botanical garden and is home to internationally recognized light artist James Turrell's Light Raiment II, which illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.*