

The National Elephant Center

Mission Statement

- **Deliver** uncompromising excellence in animal care and welfare.
- **Inspire** Cast and Guests to conservation awareness and action.
- **Build** a united team of leaders who are respected partners within the AZA and conservation communities.
- **Champion** the wise use of resources to support both financial and conservation goals.

TNEC Team Mission Statement

Our mission is to...

Deliver the best possible care to the animals in our charge. By adhering to TNEC's strict guidelines for animal care, we manage and train our elephants with the highest standards for husbandry.

Educate ourselves, our Guests and Fellow employees in the area of conservation messages about elephants and other species. By partnering with the Education and Science team, through both research projects and Guest interactive demonstrations, we enlighten our Guests to the plight of wildlife today and ways we can all help achieve conservation goals in the future.

Build strong relationships with professionals concerned with the welfare of elephants within the organization and beyond. By sharing best animal husbandry practices, we can help provide quality care for captive elephants worldwide. By building strong community relationships throughout the area, we ensure quality care for our elephants here at TNEC.

Demonstrate strong leadership behaviours among our peers in the industry. By documenting our methods of enrichment, operant conditioning techniques and animal husbandry, we show our accomplishments through presentations at professional conferences and publications in professional journals.

Our future

By adhering to our mission statement, we will continue to give our elephants the best possible care and be leaders in the industry while working to achieve a sustainable population of captive elephants in North America.

PROGRAM VISION

The vision for TNEC's elephants is that they be maintained as a socially stable, multi-generational herd with a definable matriarchal hierarchy and that they have the opportunity to exhibit a full range of behaviors in a naturalistic setting.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Provide uncompromising care for our elephants
- Maintain a safe working environment at all times
- Maintain and encourage species-appropriate social groupings and behaviours with our elephant herd
- Provide a naturalistic and educational display and instil elephant-related conservation messages in our Guests
- Build a strong team of animal care professionals and develop in them the ability to consistently exercise good judgment and safe practices with respect to the animals in their care; contribute to building the elephant program leaders of tomorrow
- Support the AZA Elephant TAG's goal of establishing a self-sustaining population of African and Asian elephants both by becoming a successful breeding facility and by assisting other facilities with their breeding programs, as appropriate
- Continue to be leaders in elephant management
- Share our expertise within the professional community