



2026 ZRA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM – DRAFT

Friday, October 2nd

10:00am – 2:00 pm

ICRM Exam Prep Workshop – Virtual

ZRA Hosted ICRM Exam Prep Workshop – Virtual Pre Conference Event, ICRM Parts 2, 3, and 4 for Certified Records Analyst (CRA) Credential

*The 2026 ZRA Annual Conference Program will be submitted to the ICRM for preapproval of maintenance points (CMPs). If you hold an ICRM credential, contact PDC leadership for pre-approval code and amount.

Sunday, October 11th

8:30am

9:00am – 10:30am

10:45am – 12:45pm

1:00pm – 2:00pm

2:00pm - 4:00pm

4:30pm

6:30pm

3:00pm – 5:00pm

Pre Conference Trip – National Aviary and The International Conservation Center

Bus departs for National Aviary (**Begin loading at 8:15am**)

National Aviary Tour

Bus transfer to The International Conservation Center (**Begin loading at 10:30am**)

Lunch at The International Conservation Center

The International Conservation Center

Bus leaves for hotel (**Begin loading at 4:15pm**)

Arrival at hotel

Conference Registration Open

Monday, October 12th

7:30am – 3:00pm

8:30am - 9:00am

9:00am – 10:15am

9:00am- 9:45am

9:45am – 10:30am

10:30am – 10:45am

10:45am – 11:30am

All Sessions/Workshops held at Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square

Conference Registration Open

Welcome

Applied Skills Workshop- A hands-on approach!

Preparing A Large Institution For An AZA Accreditation Cycle – Alex Lovern, Georgia Aquarium

Creation Of Automated Processes For Transaction And/Or Other Paperwork Using Microsoft Options- Leslie Silva, John Ball Zoo

Break

From Point A To Zoo To B: The Internal Transaction Process For Milwaukee County Zoo- Faith Benassi, Milwaukee County Zoo



11:30am – 12:15pm	From X to Aquarium to Y: Managing Animal Transaction Processes at Seattle Aquarium- Amie Bialo, Seattle Aquarium
12:15pm – 1:15pm	Lunch
1:15pm - 3:30pm	Software Workshops- Dive right in!
1:15pm - 3:30pm	Tracks Workshop – Tony Niemann, Tracks Data Solutions
1:15pm - 3:30pm	ZIMS Workshop - Species360
1:15pm - 3:30pm	AnimalCare® Software Workshop – Ian Ford, AnimalCare® Software
3:30pm – 3:45pm	Break
3:45pm – 5:15pm	Registrar 101
3:45pm – 5:15pm	Committee Working Sessions (Concurrent with Registrar 101)
5:45pm	Walk to boat dock from hotel
6:00pm – 9:00pm	Icebreaker on the Gateway Clipper
9:15pm	Walk back to hotel

Tuesday, October 13th

All Sessions held at Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square

7:30am – 10:00am	Conference Registration Open
8:15am – 8:45am	Welcome & Opening Remarks/Introductions
8:45am – 9:00am	State of the Association
9:00am – 9:45am	<i>Keynote Speaker</i>
9:45am – 10:00am	Exhibitor introductions
10:00am – 10:15am	Exhibitor Spotlight: Tracks Data Solutions
10:15am – 10:30am	Break
10:30am – 11:15am	Becoming A Cultural Connector; How Zoological Registrars Can Help Bridge Gaps Across Organizational Divides- Nico Ishak, National Aquarium
11:15am – 12:00pm	Beyond the Exhibit: Advancing Preservation & Research through Zoo-Museum Partnerships- Jessica Grote, Denver Zoo
12:00pm – 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm – 1:45pm	Beyond the Health Certificate: Veterinary Risk Mitigation in Zoo Animal Transport Planning- Dr. Nelva Bryant, DVM Transportation Consultants LLC
1:45pm – 2:30pm	Discussion Of Feeder Animal Record Management and Wellbeing Assessment Tools at Lincoln Park- Adrienne Horrigan, Lincoln Park Zoo
2:30pm – 3:15pm	The Great Elephant Shuffle- Heather Terrell, Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium
3:15pm – 3:30pm	Break



3:30pm – 4:00pm	Reimagining Animal Transport at the Saint Louis Zoo: Animal Management Services (AMS) Animal Transport Team - Lillian Moore and Shannon Richard, Saint Louis Zoo
4:00pm – 4:45pm	Keeper's-Eye View of Where Records Are Lost Before They Ever Reach Your System -Ian Ford, Animalcare Software®
5:00pm – 7:00pm	ZRA Member Flamingole, Silent Auction, and Exhibitor Showcase
7:00pm – 9:00pm	ZRA Executive Board Meeting

**Wednesday,
October 14th**

8:30am – 8:45am

8:45am – 9:30am

9:30am – 10:15am

10:15am – 10:30am

10:30am – 11:15am

11:15am – 12:00pm

12:00pm – 1:00pm

1:00pm – 1:45pm

1:45pm – 2:30pm

2:30pm – 3:15pm

3:15pm – 3:30pm

3:30pm – 4:15pm

4:15pm – 5:00pm

All Sessions held at Sheraton Pittsburgh Hotel at Station Square

Announcements/Sponsor Recognition

Managing Confiscations From A Registrar Role -Mandy Fisher, AZA, Wildlife Trafficking Alliance

NOAA/NMFS Updates - Jennifer Skidmore, National Inventory of Marine Mammals (NIMM) NOAA Fisheries Service

Break

USDA Avian Regulations- Kelly Helmich, DVM, MS, DACZM, USDA APHIS

Importation of Non- Human Primates- Sara Taetzsch, Veterinary Medical Officer at CDC

Lunch

Change Is Inevitable; Chaos Is Optional: The Registrar's Guide to Managing Staff Transitions in Animal Care – Amie Bialo, Seattle Aquarium

Animal Management Service's Collaboration with Reproductive Sciences: Advancing Records Management for Gamete Banking and Designing Integrations that Address Emerging Requirements for Births via Artificial Insemination (AI)-Rae Lynn Haliday and Lillian Moore, Saint Louis Zoo

Built to Share: Moving Animal Data Across Platforms Without Losing Control- Tony Niemann

Break

Records Management Processes Applicable to The Registrar Position- Sarah Foote, Potter Park Zoo

AZA Government Affairs and GAC- Aislinn Bates, Association of Zoos and Aquariums



5:00pm

Choose your own adventure! Dinner on your own- *Be on the lookout for local suggestions and recommendations*

Thursday, October 15th

8:00am – 9:30am

9:30am – 9:45am

9:45am – 11:00am

11:30am

12:00pm -1:00pm

1:00pm – 5:00pm

5:00pm – 7:00pm

6:00pm – 7:00pm

7:00pm – 8:00pm

8:00pm

8:30pm

Zoo Day – Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium

Z-CAP

Annual Business Meeting Check-In

Annual Business Meeting & Recognition Ceremony

Depart hotel for Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium (**Begin loading at 11:15am**)

Lunch at Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium

Zoo Day/Behind the Scenes tours

Open bar

Dinner

Jack O' Lantern Extravaganza

Buses depart for hotel (**Begin loading at 7:45pm**)

Arrival at Hotel

Friday, October 16th

9:00am

9:00am – 10:00am

10:00am – 12:00pm

12:15pm

12:30pm - 1:30pm

1:30pm -3:30pm

3:30pm

4:00pm

Post Conference Trip – Molly's Trolleys Tour, Phipps Conservatory, The Strip District

Trolley departs hotel (**Begin loading at 8:45am**)

Molly's Trolley's Tour of Pittsburgh

Phipps Conservatory

Trolley departs for The Strip District (**Begin loading at 12:00pm**)

Lunch on your own at The Strip District

Free time at The Strip District

Trolley departs for hotel (**Begin loading at 3:15pm**)

Arrive at hotel