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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AQUARIUM OUTREACH PROGRAM EDUCATES MORE STUDENTS THAN EVER BEFORE**

**Sandy, UT** (August 20, 2009) – The Living Planet Aquarium education department currently operates two outreach programs: the **Utah Waters Van** and the **Rainforest Van**. In addition to the outreach programs, **core-based field trip programs** for pre-K through twelfth grade and a **teacher professional development program** with resources for fourth grade teachers are offered to provide a unique learning environment for students of all ages to re-ignite an appreciation of the Earth's diverse yet fragile ecosystems.

The Living Planet Aquarium is pleased to announce that the 2008-2009 Utah Waters Van outreach program was offered to every fourth grader in the state! During the program, presenters guide students through a discussion of the water cycle, human uses of water, wetland ecosystems and the importance of water conservation. Large models are used to allow students to see many of the processes that support the discussion. The highlight of the Utah Waters Van presentation continues to be the models and how they enhance the student's learning experience. "Our outreach programs are presented one class at a time; not with assemblies," says Kelly Steffen, Director of Education. "We reached 52,537 students with both our Utah Waters and Rainforest Van outreach programs, teaching to one class at a time."

Secondary school field trip programs were added to the 2008-2009 school year, which provided education to middle and high school students; an audience not previously served. Between the outreach programs, field trip program and teacher development program, **the education department increased the total number of students reached by 6.6% above and beyond the previous year.**

The 2009-2010 Utah Waters Van program will begin September 2, 2009 and the Rainforest Van program will begin September 17, 2009. Teacher workshops will begin again this fall and field trip spots are available beginning in September.

### **The Living Planet Mission Statement**

The Living Planet Aquarium is dedicated to celebrating life on Earth by fostering a greater awareness and knowledge of Earth's diverse ecosystems and creating a deeper understanding of our place in the global system of life.

The Living Planet Aquarium, located at 725 E 10600 S in Sandy, Hours of admission: Friday and Saturday from 10pm to 8pm, and Sunday through Thursday from 10pm to 7pm. Admission tickets are \$8/adults, \$7/seniors/students/military, \$6/children ages 3-17 and free/children under 2 years of age. The first Monday of every month, The Living Planet Aquarium offers half-priced Family night from 5-7 p.m. Visitors can purchase annual memberships for \$16/adult and \$12/child. Memberships entitle visitors a full year of admissions plus 10% discounts in the gift shop and for birthday parties in the sunken ship.

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