



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Loveland Living Planet Aquarium is Abuzz with new Honeybee Exhibit
The Hive to Open May 31

DRAPER, Utah (May 31, 2018) — A new exhibit, *The Hive*, is buzzing into Loveland Living Planet Aquarium (LLPA)! Featuring Utah's state insect, the honeybee, the exhibit will open to the public at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 31**, with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

As guests enter the cabin-themed exhibit, they will see a floor-to-ceiling beehive with four large viewing windows into two different beehives buzzing with more than 20,000 bees. They can search for the Queen bee, watch the bees make honey and do the "waggle dance," which is a way of communication for the bees.

Guests will also learn why bees are so important and what they can do at home to protect bees. In the U.S., we depend on honeybees to pollinate nearly one-third of all the food we eat every day. Bees and other insect pollinators are facing major threats including habitat loss, monoculture, and diseases. People can help bee populations by planting native plants and avoiding pesticide use.

"I think people will find that bees are a lot more interesting than they assume. They are some of the hardest working creatures on our planet, are nature's greatest pollinators, and are fascinating to watch," said Caroline Ralston, Director of Marketing and Public Relations. "This exhibit is another way for guests of all ages to explore, discover, and learn about Earth's diverse ecosystems."

Utah is home to over 900 species of bees. There are nearly 20,000 known species worldwide, found on every continent except Antarctica. A single hive can contain 20,000 to 80,000 worker bees.

The Hive is located in the Discover Utah exhibit at the Aquarium. Media is invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony which will start promptly at 10:00 a.m.

WHAT: New Bee Exhibit, *The Hive*, Grand Opening at Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

WHEN: Thursday, May 31, at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, 12033 S. Lone Peak Parkway, Draper

Fun Facts about Bees:

- One Queen bee runs the hive. She lays 2,000 to 3,000 eggs a day, which is the next generation of bees.
- Worker bees are all female. They forage for food and build the hive.
- Male bees are called drones and their job is to mate with the Queen.
- An average bee produces about one-twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime.
- Worker bees die once they sting.



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About Loveland Living Planet Aquarium

LLPA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that inspires people to Explore, Discover, and Learn about Earth's diverse ecosystems. A world-class facility, LLPA provides learning opportunities at all levels, interests, and ages. Since opening its new facility in Draper in March 2014, the Aquarium has welcomed 3.7 million visitors. Additionally, LLPA reaches more than 82,000 Utah students each year through its Outreach Education programs.

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