



Call to Artists

Whimsy in the Wild; A Natural Fairy House Exhibition

Let your imagination take root among the trees! We invite artists, nature lovers, families, and creative minds of all ages to participate in Whimsy in the Wild, a celebration of fairy folklore, forest magic, and sustainable art. We are seeking handcrafted fairy houses built entirely from natural materials—twigs, bark, stones, pinecones, moss, and other found treasures. These enchanting creations will be showcased along a woodland path, forming a magical Fairy House Tour for guests to explore.

Invitational Design Specifications:

- All surface elements must be natural materials—such as dry grasses, leaves, sticks, pebbles, shells, fallen bark, milkweed pods, acorns, berries, gourds, miniature pumpkins, and pinecones.
- All houses must appear to be entirely natural. Man-made materials such as hot glue, natural twine, and clear acrylic spray are allowed only if fully concealed by natural elements.
- No artificial flowers, plastic items, glass beads, or non-natural decorative elements will be accepted.
- Platforms or man-made supports (e.g., wooden bases or cardboard) are allowed for transport/stability but must be fully disguised with natural materials when displayed.
- Houses may be any size and reflect any theme your imagination conjures.
- Designs must be able to withstand outdoor conditions (sun, wind, or light rain) for at least 48 hours.
- If rain is expected, bring a plastic bag or cover to protect your work during setup.
- This is a family-friendly event. No political messages or themes inappropriate for children will be accepted.
- As a celebration of Tsuni, our elephant calf we lost last year to EEHV, we invite you to include an elephant in your design that will be a part of our Scavenger Hunt activity at the event.

Important Dates:

- Submission Applications must be received by September 15
- Fairy House Drop-Off:
 - Wednesday, September 24 or Thursday, September 25
 - Between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM
 - Drop-off Location: International Conservation Center, 1487 Glen Savage Road, Fairhope, PA
- Judging: Friday, September 26
- Winners Announced: During the event on Saturday, September 27
- All houses will remain on display throughout the day as part of the Fairy House Tour.

Pick-Up Information:

Fairy houses must be picked up between 3:00–5:00 PM on Saturday, September 27.

Any houses not removed by 5:00 PM on Sunday, September 28 will become the property of the International Conservation Center.

How to Participate:

Submit attached Application to:

iccprograms@pittsburghzoo.org

Join us to celebrate the magic of nature, creativity, and imagination in this one-of-a-kind fairy house adventure!

Let your creativity take flight—and bring a little whimsy to the wild.

Whimsy in the Wild – Fairy House Submission Application

Event Date: Saturday, September 27, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: International Conservation Center, 1487 Glen Savage Road, Fairhope, PA

Please complete and email this application by September 15, 2025 to:

iccprograms@pittsburghzoo.org

All houses must follow the Invitational Design Specifications outlined in the Call to Artists.

Participant Information:

Name (Individual or Group/Team): _____

Primary Contact Person (if different): _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Entry Details:

Title of Fairy House (if any): _____

Age Category (check one):

☐ Under 10 ☐ Ages 10–17 ☐ Adult (18+)

Materials Used (briefly list natural components):

Platform/Base Description (if used):

Logistics:

Drop-Off Date (check one):

☐ Wednesday, September 24 between 9 AM–3 PM

☐ Thursday, September 25 between 9 AM–3 PM

Will you pick up your fairy house after the event?

☐ Yes, I will pick up on Saturday, September 27 between 3–5 PM

☐ No, I give permission for my house to become the property of the International Conservation Center after Saturday, September 27 at 5 PM.

Agreement:

By signing below, I confirm that my fairy house complies with the Invitational Design Specifications, is made using primarily natural materials, and is appropriate for a family audience. I understand that the International Conservation Center is not responsible for any damage or loss to the house while on display and that houses not retrieved by 5 PM on Saturday, September 27 will become property of the Center.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(If under 18, a parent or guardian must sign.)

Submit Your Application:

Deadline to Submit: September 15, 2025

Email to: iccprograms@pittsburghzoo.org

For questions, contact us at the email above