Dear Mr. Hack,

A butterfly’s beauty would appear to be more than skin deep. The most vivacious and colorful of the insects we admire has not only fooled its predators, but us as well. A butterfly’s wings are actually transparent. Small scales lining the exoskeleton reflect light in brilliant arrays of color. Lincoln Park Zoo is planning to host a new bug exhibit beginning May 1 to celebrate not only the thousands of vibrant butterflies gracing our airwaves but also a multitude of exotic insects from around the world.

The exhibit at Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Middle school students from the Chicago land area will be attending the opening day in our Lion King themed room for a “Wild King” fiesta with a bug-enriched menu featuring chocolate covered gummy worms and “slug” sandwiches.

The children will also have the opportunity to play in our “Species Spectacular” rainforest tree containing thousands of creepy crawlers from around the world.

The exhibit has been funded through Starr Environmental and the Nature Conservancy.  The bugs have been collected from the Oregon Zoo, the Bossoula Butterfly House, the Pacific Science Center and Denver’s Museum of Nature and Science. Several entomologists including Jones K. Ramsay, David L. William, and Mary-Jane Jones have conducted research and have assisted in the habitat conditions for the insects.  The insects have been gathered from an array of countries from around the world. Some include Japan, Latin America, Brazil, Austria, Africa, and New Zealand.

I will touch base in a week to discuss your interest in this story and answer any questions you may have about the exhibit. In the meantime if you have questions, feel free to contact me at 312-568-6591.

Sincerely,

Carlos Reyes

Youth Coordinator

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