

Wolf Haven International

Reservation System begins June 1, 2015

On June 1, Wolf Haven will begin using an online reservation system for sanctuary visits. For many years, Wolf Haven has been marketed as a tourist attraction rather than a true animal sanctuary. This has led to confusion about our role and identity. Earning American Sanctuary Accreditation in 2013 only strengthened our resolve to shine a light on our mission: conserve and protect wolves and their habitat. By using a reservation system, sanctuary guests are assured of a specific time for their guided walk through the sanctuary, and nobody is disappointed by showing up when Wolf Haven is closed. With the use of an online reservation system, we can also reduce the number of tours offered per year, yet keep the same number of guests overall. As it now stands, Wolf Haven offers some tours with perhaps only two people in them while conversely, others are maxed out, and some people must wait an hour for the next one. By pre-booking tours, we can be better assured of maintaining a limited yet average number of guests per visit. Groups can be maintained at a comfortable size of 20 people or less.

More important than the practical advantage of moving to an online reservation system is the fact that it is better for the wolves. By reducing the number of tours offered and the number admitted per tour, our resident wolves experience much more down time. Wolves, by nature, are extremely social animals –with one another, not with humans. Only those that appear the most comfortable around people are ever seen by the public (this includes non –animal care staff at Wolf Haven). Even those that seem amenable to public viewing deserve space, privacy and alone time in what is, after all, their home.

Undoubtedly, questions and challenges will arise as we become familiar with our new system, but within a short time, everyone will be comfortable with it. Wolf Haven International will continue to adapt, grow and progress as a sanctuary. We have come a long way since 1982, and no doubt will continue to make changes in the years to come. But our focus will remain on those residents who call Wolf Haven home -the wolves.