



Christopher Wagner, Zoo Commissary Specialist, is our July award recipient. Mr. Bonaparte presented Chris with the award last Thursday in a reception at the Topeka Zoo. Chris' wife and numerous co-workers were on hand to offer congratulations. **Chris received a beautiful plaque and a \$45.00 dollar gift certificate to the Outback Steakhouse, compliments of proprietor Damon Schopf.**

Chris began his career with the City of Topeka in 2001 as a Zoo Commissary Specialist. In his current position as Zoo Commissary Specialist II, Chris continues to maintain the animal diets in addition to assisting with many areas of zoo operations as needed.

Chris has shown great dedication to his job as well as to the City. He is a strong team player and is supportive of all areas of the Zoo which is shown by his willingness to pitch in to assist others and initiating projects to enhance the park. He works quickly, efficiently and accurately which makes it possible for him to assist keeper staff with projects, maintenance staff with small repairs, education staff with classes and tours and the FOTZ (Friends of the Zoo) with board tours. He has been a great host with our annual holiday party and helps with planning and hosting other functions and events as needed. Additionally, Chris always takes great care to make sure new interns, volunteers and employees feel right at home, answering their questions and including them in activities.

Chris also works closely with the greater Topeka community on a regular basis. He maintains and builds good relationships with vendors, individuals and other partners that support the zoo. He is also active within the community; Chris is the chairperson of the Allied Tribes Pow Wow, he is an active member of a Native American drum group and Chris will receive the honor of being accepted in the Comanche tribe this summer.

Because of his heartfelt dedication to the Topeka Zoological Park and its patrons, we are proud to name Christopher Wagner the July Employee of the Month.

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