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DESERT MUSEUM REVEALS NAMES OF RESCUED MOUNTAIN LION CUBS

TUCSON, AZ—The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is delighted to announce the official names of its two rescued mountain lion cub residents and the story behind how these names were chosen.

In April, during the Desert Museum’s annual Desert Gala, a generous supporter won the exclusive naming rights for the two mountain lion brothers. Inspired by their support of Beads of Courage, another local nonprofit organization that helps children and teens coping with serious illnesses, the donor chose to share this special opportunity with the young people served by the organization.

Children participating through Beads of Courage submitted dozens of imaginative and heartfelt name ideas for the cubs. Following a Beads of Courage voting period, two winning names emerged. We are happy to formally introduce the mountain lion cubs with their names: Moonbead and Pretzel.

“It was very meaningful to auction off the naming rights for the Desert Museum’s new mountain lion cubs. That support goes directly into funding the care of animals like these cubs, as well as the nonprofit Museum’s broader work in conservation, education, and science,” said Lynnae Wenker, Director of Philanthropy at the Desert Museum. “This unique opportunity also fostered a special new partnership with another local nonprofit that is doing great work in the community. We look forward to watching Moonbead and Pretzel as they learn, play, and grow up here at their new home in the desert.”

Working Together for Greater Impact

What began as a fundraising opportunity transformed into a chance for children facing significant medical challenges to leave their mark on two of the Museum’s newest animal ambassadors. We’re grateful to this donor for creating a unique connection between the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and Beads of Courage, bringing together conservation, community, and courage in a meaningful and lasting way.

The names reflect the creativity, imagination, and spirit of the children who participated, and the Museum is honored to celebrate their contributions.

Meet Moonbead and Pretzel

Since their public debut at the Desert Museum, the rescued mountain lion cubs have quickly become favorites. Guests are invited to visit Moonbead and Pretzel and follow along as the young brothers continue to grow and develop new skills.

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About the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum

Founded in 1952, the Desert Museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization widely recognized as a model institution for immersive and innovative interpretation of native plants and animals in their natural habitat. The 98-acre Desert Museum in Tucson, AZ is regularly recognized as a top-tier facility due to its pioneering approach to interpreting the complete natural history of a single region. It is a zoo, aquarium, botanical garden, art gallery and natural history museum, all rolled into one. The mission of the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding of the Sonoran Desert. To learn more, visit www.desertmuseum.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).