



NEWS RELEASE

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CHOCOLATE WARS TAPED AT SANTA BARBARA ZOO

Premieres Monday, May 10 at 10 p.m. on TLC

(Santa Barbara, CA, May 4, 2010) – Three of the nation’s top chocolatiers battle for chocolate bragging rights – and a sweet prize – in TCL’s new special *Chocolate Wars*, which was taped at the Santa Barbara Zoo and features Estelle Sandhaus, the Zoo’s Director of Conservation and Research, as a guest judge. *Chocolate Wars* premieres on TLC on Monday, May 10 at 10 p.m.

“I knew that my abiding love of chocolate would pay off one day,” laughs Sandhaus, “I usually spend my days tromping through poison oak to monitor nests of endangered California condors. On this day, I indulged in my other passion ... eating chocolate.”

Hosted by George Duran, the hour-long special follows three chocolate masters as they fight it out to see who can build the most amazing chocolate showpiece for display at a Santa Barbara Zoo celebration. A \$5,000 prize for the winner sweetens the deal.

In addition to Sandhaus, judges include world renowned pastry chef Andrew Shotts and celebrity chocolatier Hasty Torres.

The show, from the producers of *Ultimate Cake Off*, was taped at the Zoo in March. It is produced for TLC by Discovery Studios; executive producers are Sean Atkins and Robin Feinberg.

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The Santa Barbara Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; general admission is \$12 for adults, \$10 for children 2-12 and seniors 60+, and children under 2 are free. Parking is \$5.

The Santa Barbara Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). AZA zoos are dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great visitor experience, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and is the public's link to helping animals in their native habitats.

