

Welcome Back, Pandas! Two Furry Diplomats Are Headed to the D.C. Zoo.

Before the pandemic, my family and I visited San Diego and were fortunate to see the pandas at the zoo. That was the last time I saw pandas, as they were returned to China in 2019. These pandas had been gifted to the US by China, but under the terms of their arrangement, they had to be returned, much to the disappointment of many. This has happened to most of the giant pandas in the US. Currently, only Zoo Atlanta still has pandas, but they will be returned to China by the end of the year, leaving our country temporarily giant pandas-less.

So when will these adorable furry creatures visit the US again? According to an NYT article, two new pandas will be sent to the National Zoo at the end of this year and will be on display shortly after! With the giant panda population still vulnerable, the National Zoo will use this opportunity to "foster the breeding and care of the animals." This will help bolster the giant panda population, and the handoff of pandas will also relieve tension between the US and China.

As many of you may know, there has been some political tension between the US and China recently, which could have jeopardized the panda deal. However, both countries are still committed to the plan. The giant pandas would be "envoys of friendship," according to China's leader at a diplomatic summit in San Francisco last November.

After a brief absence, the US is finally getting giant pandas again!