



February, 2023

Amelia enjoys her routine and taking things one day at a time. As soon as forest school begins, Amelia races out the door of her sleeping enclosure. She doesn't need to be told twice that playtime has begun. Amelia remains somewhat aloof with her caregivers, but there is an understanding and trust that has been forged between fellow primates. Amelia appreciates her space and as long as she is given it, she will express herself how she sees fit. Amelia enjoys the safety and familiarity of the Camp Danielle playground. She swings from beam to beam, rope-torope and finds solitude sitting alone in the blue barrels hanging from the rafters.

She is a watchful and observant young orangutan. She climbs to the highest point of the playground and observes the terrain like a scout, gazing as far as the eye can see. Primates extensively rely on their keen eyesight and colour vision. If she hears a sound from the other side of the playground, such as a passing caregiver, Amelia scrambles over to see exactly what is occurring and who is walking by. She likes knowledge for knowledge's sake.

Amelia will surprise us on occasion. From time to time, she ventures to the woods and ascends a tree. She doesn't climb too high, approximately 10 metres, but this is cause for celebration nonetheless. Once she has climbed the tree Amelia moves slowly and deliberately through the branches. Every step is considered. Once in a while Amelia will seem to relax and forget about her cares and woes. She finds a comfortable spot to sit and observe her surroundings. Amelia leans her head on a tree, ensconced in leaves, branches and palm fronds. She is safely wrapped up within nature and her dark, shiny eyes radiate contentment.

Amelia learns in her own way. In some ways, she needs us to be more understanding and patient with her than with other orangutans. With the help of her generous foster parents, we will provide her with the care that she requires.

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