October 08, 2010

News Release

For Immediate Release

Trick or Treat Yourself to Zoo's Halloween SPOOKTACULAR

Find out what “goes bump in the night” at the zoo! Dickerson Park Zoo will celebrate Halloween SPOOKTACULAR, Oct. 22 through Halloween night, from 6:30 - 9 p.m.

Hundreds of jack-o-lanterns, hand-carved by Springfield-area school children, will light part of the path of the 27th annual event. Area scouting and youth organizations bring their creativity to the Festival of Scarecrows.

New for 2010, Dickerson Park Zoo presents the “Enchanted Forest,” “Gigantic Jack-o-lanterns,” the “Totem Village” and the “Secrets of Egypt.”

Children age 12 and younger can “goblin up” candy treats from costumed volunteers at treat stations throughout the zoo. Along the way, view some of your favorite children’s characters, such as Nemo, Mickey Mouse and Alvin and the Chipmunks, and enjoy an inflatable bounce. For an additional $2 per person, take an after-dark ride on the Titus Express train or go for a spin on the Witch’s Kettle carnival ride.

Back again in 2010 is the children’s favorite – “Hometown Heroes” – where children can visit with representatives from area law enforcement and public safety agencies as a special treat.

Ticket prices are $6 at the gate for everyone age one and older. Beginning mid-October, tickets can be purchased in advance for $4 each at McDonald’s restaurants in Springfield, Battlefield, Ozark, Nixa, Republic and Willard. Children younger than age one and Friends of the Zoo members are admitted free.

Halloween SPOOKTACULAR is the largest on-grounds fundraiser for Friends of the Zoo, and proceeds benefit the zoo’s conservation education programs. Halloween SPOOKTACULAR is sponsored by McDonald’s and Friends of the Zoo.

Dickerson Park Zoo is open for daytime visits from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily, weather permitting. Daytime admission fees are $8 for adults and teenagers, and $5 for children ages 3-12. Admission to Halloween SPOOKTACULAR is not included with daytime admission fees. For more information about the zoo or its events, visit www.dickersonparkzoo.org or call 417-864-1800.

For more information, contact: Melinda Arnold, Public Relations Director, 417-833-1570 (office) or 417-848-0162 (cell), marnold@dickersonparkzoo.org