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All the Fun Without the Fright: Spooktacular is Back at the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Sponsored by Sweet Pete's and Pepsi

October 8, 2018-- *Jacksonville, FL* – It's time to grab your ghosts and goblins and head to the **31st annual Spooktacular** at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens! Jacksonville's most enchanting celebration takes place October 12-14, 18-21 and 26-31. Children and adults are encouraged to dress up in their favorite family-friendly costumes for a "terror"ific time enjoying games, trick-or-treating and optional scare zones for those who dare to join the fun.

Spooktacular welcomes guests to come and experience all the new tricks, treats, frights and delights in the five themed areas throughout the Zoo: Zombies, Wizard of Oz, Classic Monsters, Fall Maze, and the Crypt of the Spider King. There will be opportunities to meet characters from *A Nightmare Before Christmas*, *Beetlejuice* and *The Wizard of Oz*. The Great Lawn offers many activities including a hay maze, bounce house, and face painting by our zoo keepers.

Guests should come prepared to trick- and most definitely- treat at the Sweet Pete's Candy Trail winding through Play Park. All candy is palm oil friendly, meaning it is sustainably sourced to help preserve animals in the wild. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at the Zoo's restaurants and snack bars.

Don't forget to join us Halloween day for an all new event sponsored by Fun 4 First Coast Kids: **Mini Monster Mash**. This experience includes for music, games and candy for our youngest guests and will be held from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the Great Lawn. Children 3-12 who come in costume get FREE general admission to the Zoo with a paying adult.

Spooktacular opens each night at 6:30 p.m. with ticket sales ending at 9 p.m. and the Zoo closing at 10 p.m. Admission varies by date and can be found on the website. Parking is free.

For more information and to purchase tickets in advance at discounted rate please visit www.jacksonvillezoo.org. All proceeds benefit the care and feeding of our animals, support for educational programming and conservation initiatives beyond the Zoo's gates.

[Dropbox link to photos and B-roll video](#)

About Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens

For over 100 years, the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens has aimed to inspire the discovery and appreciation of wildlife through innovative experiences in a caring environment. Starting in 1914 with an animal collection of one red deer fawn, the Zoo now has more than 2,000 rare and exotic animals and 1,000 species of plants, boasting the largest botanical garden in Northeast

Florida. **The Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens is a nonprofit organization and a portion of every ticket sold goes to the over 45 conservation initiatives Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens supports around the world, and here in NE Florida.** JZG is proud to be an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. For more information, visit jacksonvillezoo.org.