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## ZOOLights is Back - Bigger and Brighter at Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens!

December 3, 2018 - Jacksonville, FL – Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens will be celebrating the holidays with the wildest holiday event in North Florida – ZOOLights!

ZOOLights lights up the Zoo from December 7th-9th and 14th- January 5th (closed Christmas Day.) A special, sold-out ticketed event Illumination will kick off the festivities on Thursday, December 6, complete with a VIP dinner and a sneak peek of the lights.

ZOOLights has quickly become a not-to-be-missed family favorite. The Zoo setting offers a unique holiday light experience. Guests at ZOOLights can enjoy cool weather festivities such as sipping hot chocolate, roasting marshmallows for s'mores, taking a ride on the illuminated train, and getting a holiday picture with Santa!

This year ZOOLights is debuting the Jingle Bell Jukebox Revenue to help celebrate the holiday spirit. A lively performance of festive songs performed by local artists. The performances will take place on the Great Lawn with nightly shows.

**Guests can also give back to the community this holiday season by participating in the food drive for Feeding Northeast Florida, a nonprofit community food bank. The drive will be hosted the first weekend of ZOOLights, December 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. For every three perishable food items brought to the Zoo, a \$5 off coupon will be issued for a ZOOLights ticket valid for the first weekend only.**

The glow of the lights and hot chocolate are not the only things to keep you warm at ZOOLights this year – put on your favorite footie pajamas on December 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> for a family-friendly Pajama Party, wear your best tacky Christmas sweater on December 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> or bring your light saber for an out-of-this-galaxy Star Wars night on Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup>.

ZOOLights is presented by Community First Credit Union. The Zoo will continue to have regular park hours each day, closing at 5 p.m., and re-opening at 6 p.m.

Admission starts at \$8 for members, \$10 for non-members, and children ages two and younger are free. Members can take advantage of Member Appreciation Nights December 17th-20th with only \$5 admission and extended shopping hours in the gift shops! Also available is a Total Experience Ticket which includes admission, train rides, 4D Theatre, and carousel. Parking is free.



### **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](http://jacksonvillezoo.org).

### **About Feeding Northeast Florida**

Feeding Northeast Florida works daily to provide healthy food and critical resources to those locally struggling with food insecurity across eight regional counties. In 2017, more than 12.5 million meals were distributed throughout Northeast Florida through the organization's robust hunger-relief network of 150 partners and programs. For more information about Feeding Northeast Florida, visit <https://www.feedingnefl.org/>.