



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Audubon Zoo Lights Presented by
Children's Hospital Makes 2018 Holiday Season Debut**
Open select nights from November 23 through December 30 from 5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

(New Orleans, La.) - Audubon Nature Institute and Children's Hospital came together to announce their plans to create a new holiday tradition that will transform Audubon Zoo into a WILD, glowing wonderland. Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children's Hospital will bring the holiday spirit to thousands of families.

The wildly successful partnership between Audubon Nature Institute and Children's Hospital has brought exciting experiences to New Orleans families for decades, and together, Audubon and Children's Hospital will give yet another holiday gift to the families of our community by creating an enchanting nighttime winter dreamland in the heart of Uptown New Orleans.

During Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children's Hospital, twinkling lights, holiday story time and merry performances will transform Audubon Zoo into an enchanted, glowing world of wonder. The thrilling sights and fun-filled activities will be experienced over select nights between November 23 and December 30. The whole family will enjoy an exciting array of animal-themed light displays, nightly live entertainment including, jazzy carols, New Orleans-style second line parades and special holiday treats.

"Children's Hospital has enjoyed a long tradition of celebrating families for more than two generations with Boo at the Zoo and most recently our participation in Mother's Day at Audubon Zoo," said John R. Nickens, IV president and CEO of Children's Hospital. "Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children's Hospital will bring more families together to enjoy another of our great city's treasures."

Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children's Hospital will feature an array of festive, family-friendly activities. Guests can drop by the craft tents and create special messages that will be delivered to the patients at Children's Hospital or peruse the wares of local artisans in the Holiday Marketplace.

The signature attraction at Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children's Hospital will be life-sized, silk-lighted replicas of some of the Zoo's most popular animals, including a 19-foot-by-19-foot peacock.

“Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children’s Hospital offers an extraordinary way to connect young minds to the wonders of nature in one of our community’s most beloved destinations: Audubon Zoo, and during such a magical time of the year.” said Audubon Nature Institute President and CEO Ron Forman.

Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children’s Hospital is also being sponsored by WWL-TV and IBERIABANK. WWL-TV will be the official Media Partner. Through their media sponsorship WWL-TV is continuing to demonstrate their unwavering dedication to serving the New Orleans community.

As the Entertainment Sponsor, IBERIABANK will provide 2,500 complimentary event tickets to underserved students and their families participating as entertainers. IBERIABANK’s sponsorship will allow students from underserved schools to share in the magic with their family, giving the gift of holiday joy to thousands of New Orleans children.

During Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children’s Hospital, Audubon will collect holiday string lights for recycling at the Zoo front gate between November 23 and December 30. This conservation project will support Audubon’s “Lights for Lions” campaign to help save lions in the wild. “Lights for Lions” is an impactful way to connect our guests in New Orleans to a worthwhile conservation project. Audubon will make sure all string lights are responsibly recycled, while community members enjoy their holidays knowing that they helped save animals in the wild.

Audubon Zoo Lights presented by Children’s Hospital will open at 5:30 p.m. and close at 9:30 p.m. nightly. Admission is only \$10 for Audubon members and \$15 for non-members.

Tickets will be on sale soon and can be purchased on Audubon’s website or at the Zoo front gate. For more information, please visit www.audubonnatureinstitute.org/zoo-lights

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