



Walking in a *Wild* Wonderland at the Cincinnati Zoo

PNC Festival of Lights Kicks Off 27 Years

Open Nightly Beginning November 27

**Half Priced Admission Select Nights*

CINCINNATI – The 27th Annual PNC Festival of Lights promises to be more colorful and greener than ever before! More than one million energy-saving, light-emitting diodes (LEDs) lights have been added to the event, this year alone, in a variety of colors. The Cincinnati Zoo's commitment to conservation is clearly demonstrated through its sustainable approach to the management of its facilities. In keeping with this commitment for PNC Festival of Lights, the Zoo has replaced 100% of its old incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient bulbs, using 85% less energy and making the event the greenest in 27 years.

"PNC is very pleased to continue our signature support of this unique Cincinnati holiday tradition," said Kay Geiger, President, Greater Cincinnati/N. Kentucky- PNC Bank. "PNC enjoys bringing this kind of spirit and joy to the people of the tri-state area and invite all of our friends to visit the Cincinnati Zoo to take part in the PNC Festival of Lights."

Experience the spectacular sights and sounds of the **NEW Wild Lights Show on Swan Lake** as a 21-foot-tall computer-controlled tree with thousands of LED lights dance to the beat of popular holiday songs. Kids can visit Santa in his new location near the Rhino Café in **Santa's House** and visit his reindeer in **Gingerbread Village** and write their very own letter to Santa and send it straight to the North Pole at the **Holiday Post Office**, across from the Rhino Café. Enjoy the breath-taking 35-foot-tall **International Tree**, blanketed with more than 20,000 LED lights.

Back by popular demand, watch life size puppets come to life right before your eyes during live stage performances of **"Winter Wonders" by Madcap Puppet Theatre**. Each amazing black theater-style show features an array of holiday themes including snowmen, ice skating, and even dancing marshmallows! Enjoy three shows nightly at 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. at the Wings of Wonder Theater.

The always popular, **The Polar Express™ 4-D Experience**, is back at the Special FX 4-D Theater. You don't just watch the movie but you feel and smell it. Experience the wind against your face while smelling

delicious hot chocolate and much, much more. Based on the inspiring and beloved Caldecott Medal children's book by Chris Van Allsburg, The Polar Express™ 4-D Experience will bring a smile to the face of young and old alike. Also showing is NEW Glacier Run 4-D. Guests will experience special wind, mist and snow effects during this fantastic ride through slippery ice coated mountains. Be sure to purchase tickets in advance, online. Shows will sell out early.

Be sure to stop by **Mrs. Claus' Cottage** and enjoy enchanting stories and surprise animal visits starting at 5:00 p.m. during select nights. Check out the sights aboard the **North Polar Express** and meet the **Talking Tigers**, "Blizzard" "Snowflake" just outside the Train Depot.

Satisfy your sweet tooth with scrumptious **seasonal fare** such as fresh-baked cookies, caramel apples, funnel cakes, homemade fudge, hot pretzels and roasted nuts. Or, warm up with Starbucks coffee, a glass of hot apple cider or hot chocolate. Cross items off of your **holiday shopping** list at one of the Zoo's gift shops, including the Zoosters' Treasure House and the NEW Zoo Shop at the Historic Vine Street Village.

Visit the Zoo's **cold climate animal residents** who are especially active and very much at home in the cooler temperatures. Tigers, lions, polar bears, red pandas, Japanese macaques, snow leopards, bald eagles, sea lion and reindeer thoroughly enjoy the winter weather. Hundreds of other warm-weather animals can be found inside more than a dozen **heated indoor exhibits**.

NEW this year, guests are invited to ring in the Zoo Year with a bunch of "party animals"! Kids of all ages are invited **Happy Zoo Year**, as the Zoo holds its very own New Year's Eve bash on Thursday, December 31 from 5 – 9 p.m. Special activities will include a Special New Year's Eve Madcap Puppet Show, a meet & greet with Father Time and Baby Zoo Year and an **EARLY** Zoo Year Countdown, complete with party favors and Rozzi's fireworks.

Celebrate 27 years of family and tradition at the Cincinnati Zoo PNC Festival of Lights. The Zoo opens daily at 9 a.m. The PNC Festival of Lights is open 5 – 9 p.m. **Nightly** from November 27 - January 3, 2010. (closed Christmas Eve and Day). ***Half Priced Admission November 30 – December 2, December 7 -9 and December 14 - 16!** To purchase admission tickets, or timed-tickets to The Polar Express™ 4-D Experience or NEW Glacier Run 4-D, visit www.cincinnati-zoo.org.

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The world famous Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden was rated the #1 attraction locally and one of the top zoos in the nation by Zagat Survey. It was recognized by Parents Magazine as #7 on the "Top 10 Best Zoos for Kids." It has also been recognized by Child Magazine as one of "The 10 Best Zoos for Kids." Over one million people visit the Zoo's award-winning exhibits, and more than 500 animal and 3000 plant species annually. The Zoo is an accredited member of the American Zoo & Aquarium Association (AZA) and the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), is internationally known for its success in the protection and propagation of endangered animals and plants, and engages in research and conservation projects worldwide.

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