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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Zoo to celebrate World Giraffe Day Saturday**

**ABILENE, TEXAS** – Even though the Abilene Zoo’s giraffes are currently off exhibit, the park will join other zoos across the world to celebrate World Giraffe Day, Saturday, June 20. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. that day, the zoo will offer plenty of hands on educational displays, games, crafts, and more. The activities are free with regular zoo admission.

“On behalf of our very own male Rothschild’s Giraffe, Mesi, we will be raising money for an important conservation project that is aimed at preserving the Rothschild’s giraffes,” explains zoo educator Paige Rudaisics. “We will be raffling off a special behind-the-scenes tour with our giraffes.”

For only \$1 per ticket, guests can lend a hand to this beautiful giraffe subspecies while entering for the opportunity of a lifetime with the famous Abilene giraffes. 100 percent of the proceeds will go to Operation Twiga, a project aimed at protecting the approximately 1,100 wild Rothschild’s giraffe in Uganda.

The Abilene Zoo is home to more than 900 animals of 250 different species. The zoo is open 7 days a week (closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last admittance is 4 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3.50 for children ages 3-12, \$5 for seniors aged 60+. Members are admitted free. Memberships start at \$30.

[www.abilenezoo.org](http://www.abilenezoo.org). 325-676-6085. This summer, the zoo will be open every Thursday until 9 p.m. with last admittance at 8 p.m.

**Mission Statement:** *The Abilene Zoo is a place of learning and adventure, where families make memories, share the joy of discovery and become inspired to preserve wildlife.*