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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Boo at the Zoo to feature longer hours, more activities**

ABILENE, TEXAS – Boo at the Zoo -- the Abilene Zoo’s biggest event of the year – will take place Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

This year the Halloween party at the zoo is opening two hours earlier to accommodate more activities and ease crowding. Last year’s event brought in record attendance, with 9350 people in the zoo that day, so this year’s Boo at the Zoo Committee is prepared for large crowds – adding a Trick or Treat Fun Town in a large area near the old zoo entrance for treat stops, games and crafts.

“We’re excited and grateful to the Dyess Civil Engineering Squadron for designing a hay bale maze for the kids,” says event chairman Claudia Diltz. “We’ll also have games, three bounce houses for children of different ages, and the zoo’s education department will offer kids a chance to make a holiday craft.” Costume contests will take place all day at the zoo pavilion.

To underscore the zoo’s mission to encourage conservation, trick-or-treaters are urged to bring their own reusable treat bags to collect candy.

Merchants or organizations interested in hosting a treat stop at Boo at the Zoo can call Membership Coordinator Kim Baker at 325-676-6451.

Tickets for Boo at the Zoo cost \$5 for everyone two and older. Children younger than two get in free. Advance tickets cost \$4.50 and can be bought every day at the Zoo Store until Friday, Oct. 23.

**About the Abilene Zoo:**

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 \$7 for adults, \$4.50 for children ages 3-12, \$6 for seniors aged 60+. Members are admitted free. Memberships start at \$35.

[www.abilenezoo.org](http://www.abilenezoo.org). 325-676-6085. **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.*