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**Illuminating Your Holiday Season for 25 Years**

*The holiday tradition shines brighter than ever as the Phoenix Zoo ushers in 25 years of ZooLights (with a little help from the ASU Marching Band)!*

**PHOENIX (November 16, 2016)** – ZooLights, presented by SRP and powered by EarthWise™ Energy, will light up the sky for its 25<sup>th</sup> season on Wednesday, November 23, 2016, and every evening thereafter through January 8, 2017.

To kick off the festive season of the magical light display, nearly 60 members of the ASU Marching Band will lead a procession of holiday revelers from the Zoo's front gate to Savanna Park for a tree lighting ceremony of the Zoo's new three-story holiday tree. Bert Castro, President and CEO of the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/ Phoenix Zoo, will address the crowd and assist with the tree lighting ceremony at 5:45 p.m. on Wednesday, November 23.

"The magic of ZooLights with its millions of lights and its hundreds of twinkling displays has provided priceless memories and become a Valley tradition for countless guests over the past two- and-a- half decades," says Castro, "We are honored to be a part of so many holiday memories and look forward to another 25 years of ZooLights!"

Guests are welcomed to ZooLights as they stroll under a canopy of sparkling, twinkling and dancing lights on the Zoo's main bridge. Returning again are pals Tortuga, the talking Galápagos tortoise and Jengo the talking giraffe who entertain guests with their quick wit and amazing knowledge. Enjoy two new Music in Motion shows including Winter Palace by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, and a medley of classic holiday carols. New this year; look for several 3-D and 4-D lighted displays including candy canes, turtles, a dragonfly, jellyfish, flamingos and an alligator, and be sure to see some of the traditional favorites such as the elephant and giraffe families, the 3-D snake and the peacock. Enjoy camel rides, carousel, Stingray Bay, and be sure to see Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer shine bright in the Zoo's 4-D Theater; all open for an additional fee during ZooLights. The Polar Slide is back for another season of excitement taking guests on a thrilling 200-foot snow-tubing experience. Santa will greet guests and offer photo opportunities near the Zoo's Leapin' Lagoon splash pad each and every night, with his last appearance being December 23. Also, carolers and bell choirs will entertain the crowds on Friday nights throughout December.

The Zoo strives to be environmentally friendly and transition more and more lights every year to LED. This year, the Zoo is proud to say that 98% of our lights are LED. Also, ZooLights is presented by SRP and powered by EarthWise™ Energy, generated from sun, wind, the earth's heat and flowing water in canals. ZooLights is brought to you in part by Macy's and Nationwide.

Ticket prices vary from \$10.95 to \$19.95, depending on the evening you choose and if you are a Phoenix Zoo member. Children two and younger are free. Tickets can be purchased online at [phoenixzoo.org](http://phoenixzoo.org), by calling 602.914.4333 (Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.) or at the gate when you come to ZooLights.

Purchase link: <http://phoenixzoo.org/event-items/zoolights/>

Photo link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ivx44u8p6h1nzmb/AADK5e4WHV0rU07fW6qm8vE0a?dl=0>

### **About the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo**

The Phoenix Zoo is the only zoo in the Valley accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is a non-profit zoological park, serving 1.3 million guests annually.

Home to more than 1,400 animals and many endangered and threatened species, the Zoo provides experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world. The Arizona Center for Nature Conservation also manages the South Mountain Environmental Education Center in South Mountain Park & Preserve. For information on upcoming events, exhibits and activities at the Phoenix Zoo, visit [www.phoenixzoo.org](http://www.phoenixzoo.org).