



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** October 14, 2009

## ***Lights Before Christmas Returns to the Zoo***

Toledo, Ohio· The Toledo Zoo's *Lights Before Christmas* brings families together throughout the holiday season with dazzling displays of lights, holiday treats and festive good cheer. On **Friday, November 20**, the Zoo will kick off a new season of the *Lights Before Christmas* with the ceremonial lighting of its 85-foot Norway spruce tree, decorated entirely with energy-saving LED lights. Adorned with over 32,000 lights, this spruce boasts more lights than the famous Christmas tree in New York City's Rockefeller Center! **Join The Toledo Zoo for a special kick-off tree lighting ceremony between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.** and see the magnificence of the *Lights Before Christmas* for yourself.

Throughout the *Lights Before Christmas* season, visitors will enjoy hot chocolate and other holiday treats, carolers and ice-carving demonstrations on selected evenings, and rides on the Safari Railway and African Animal Carousel, weather permitting. The Toledo Zoo is also your Santa Claus destination, as the jolly old elf will be hearing children's Christmas wishes in the Zoo's Indoor Theatre through December 23!

Presented by KeyBank, The Toledo Zoo's *Lights Before Christmas* is open from November 20 to December 31 (*closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day*). Hours are Monday through Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (the park closes at 9 p.m.) and Friday through Sunday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. (the park closes at 10 p.m.). Admission prices are \$10 for adults, \$7 for children (2-11) and seniors (60+), and *free* for children under age 2. Toledo Zoo members receive one free visit to *Lights Before Christmas*.

The Toledo Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and is located on the Anthony Wayne Trail (US 25), four miles south of downtown Toledo. For more information, please visit [www.toledozoo.org](http://www.toledozoo.org) or call (419) 385-4040. Lucas County residents are admitted free of charge each Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. ID showing proof of residency is required.

*The Toledo Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things. With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is building North America's largest wildlife conservation movement.*

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