Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular
at Roger Williams Park Zoo
NOW - OCTOBER 31
Last year, we didn’t want to disappoint you and cancel our Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular, which is into its fourth decade of a Rhode Island tradition. So, our incredibly talented team created a COVID-safe drive-through experience that allowed you to stay safe inside your car while still enjoying the sights and sounds of the Halloween season.

This year, it’s music to our ears that the nationally acclaimed walk-through Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular is back and better than ever. Presented by Citizens, this year’s spectacular takes visitors on a journey from the days of ragtime and swing to rock and roll and hip hop as we celebrate the greatest music from the last 150 years. Guests can stroll, or dance their way, past thousands of intricately carved pumpkins displayed while listening to soundtracks from the 1860’s through today. From Joplin to Jay-Z, it’s going to be a rocking good time for guests of all ages! But please know that we continue to be committed to providing a safe experience and will continue to follow all the State of Rhode Island COVID-19 regulations.

Now a tradition in New England, the show attracts 115,000 – 140,000 visitors from all over the country...and even the world! We have welcomed guests from:

- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Spain
- Taiwan
- United Kingdom
- Virgin Islands

For the 11th year, Citizens is the sponsor of the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular. We are appreciative that their support allows us to continue this signature event for New England and beyond, allowing you to enjoy this unique tradition.

The Zoo is also grateful for the continuing support from Cardi’s Furniture and Mattresses. Cardi’s supports the Zoo year-round and increases the Zoo’s Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular visibility.

GENERAL 2021 JACK-O-LANTERN SPECTACULAR INFORMATION

All tickets are only available online and must be purchased in advance.

Family Fun Nights: .................................
Included with price of admission

Family Fun Nights have special themes for the whole family. Families can meet & greets with some of their favorite costumed characters before hopping on the pumpkin trail. All events are 6:00 – 8:00 pm and included in the price of the Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular ticket.

- Fairy Tale Nights- meet some special Princesses! Tuesdays: October 12 & 19
- Superhero Nights- take a photo with your favorite crusader! Wednesdays: October 13 & 20

Sensory-Friendly Nights ............................

Join us for a special sensory-friendly Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular an hour before the trail opens to the public: designed those with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and sensory processing differences and their families from 5:00 – 6:00 pm on Tuesday, October 26 and Wednesday, October 27.

- For maximum enjoyment, the over 5000 pumpkins will light up the Zoo’s Wetlands Trail, but there will be no music or special effects.
- Tickets are available for purchase in person only at the Zoo’s admissions booth. Check rwpzoo.org/jols for ticket information.

Spooky Zoo ...........................................

Spooky Zoo is back, offering daytime outdoor autumn activities for the whole family! Come trick-or-treat (while supplies last) with us on Saturday October 25th from 10:00-3:00 pm in the Big Backyard. Activities are free with Zoo admission and children's costumes are encouraged. All activities are weather permitting and while supplies last. Non-members must purchase tickets online in advance. Rain date Sunday, October 26th.

See you on the Pumpkin Trail!!

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION CLICK HERE ➤
Since 2010, Citizens has supported the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular and we have watched the event grow by leaps and bounds, bringing joy to millions, both young and young at heart, from near and far. We have also witnessed the event persevere during the most challenging of times, most recently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and Roger Williams Park Zoo’s resiliency, that commitment to community, is to be commended.

It is with great pleasure we see the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular return to its time-honored tradition as a walk-through event. Soak up the sounds of the greatest music from the past 150 years and stroll – or dance – your way through to all genres of music, from ragtime to rap to rock n’ roll, and everything in-between. Whether you’re a fan of Chuck Berry, The Beatles or Justin Bieber, this year’s Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular promises to be music to your ears. More than just show-stopping pumpkins, the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular continues its legacy as a feast for the senses; an explosion of sights, sounds, colors and music that illustrates why October is such an extraordinary time in Rhode Island, nowhere more so than here at the Zoo.

This year, Citizens has teamed up with the Zoo for #Where’sRoger, a scavenger hunt to find the Zoo’s delightfully lovable red panda mascot, Roger. Find Roger, snap a photo and share on Instagram using @rwpzoo with the hashtag #WheresRoger and you’ll be automatically entered to Adopt-an-Animal of your choosing. (Winners will be randomly chosen every Friday, October 8 – October 29.)

Citizens has long admired the artistry, creativity and talent of the Passion for Pumpkins team who meticulously carve thousands upon thousands of pumpkins that wow visitors to the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular year after year, and we commend the designers who expertly place these works of art throughout the Zoo to make a wildly enthralling experience for all for visit.

We applaud the dedicated Roger Williams Park Zoo staff and organizers of the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular who have worked tirelessly to bring one of the most cherished annual events throughout all of New England to the public in a safe, engaging and enchanting way.

As we continue our long-standing commitment to the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular and the communities we serve, we are confident you’ll enjoy every moment of this unparalleled event which raises funds for the zoo’s animal welfare and conservation initiatives. Have fun, make memories and keep your eye out for Roger! See you on the pumpkin trail!
SAVE THE DATE

HOLIDAY LIGHTS Spectacular

AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO

Last year was our inaugural Holiday Lights Spectacular and the response was fantastic! You loved seeing your favorite zoo all dressed up to celebrate the season.

This year, experience Holiday Lights Spectacular as an all-new walk-through event featuring festive, larger-than-life dazzling displays with 1.5 million illuminated lights!

Join us on select nights from November 26 through January 2, 2022, and ring in the season!

Click Here for information on dates and times and to purchase tickets >>
October 24 marks International Gibbon Day, a day devoted to the celebration of the acrobatic, long-armed primates native to the dwindling rainforests of Southern Asia and to raise awareness for the amazing apes both in the wild and in managed care.

**AT THE ZOO:**

RWPZoo is home to a pair of Northern White-Cheeked Gibbons (Hylobates leucogenys), Ari, a 12-year-old female, and Quon, a 13-year-old male. Visitors can often see these acrobatic ape companions leaping and swinging their way around their home at the Zoo’s World of Adaptations.

According to Zookeeper Kelly Froio, Ari and Qwon make a perfect pair.

“Ari is the dominant one,” she said, noting that in the wild, female gibbons are naturally more dominant, “but she is especially assertive… Qwon is a good fit for her because he’s very laid back, but can stand up for himself when he needs to.”

When she’s not bossing around her more laid-back companion, Ari can often be found exploring her environment, wrapping herself in sheets and blankets or playing with the wide variety of toys (her current favorite is a pink stuffed frog) provided by the keeper staff.

As with all manner of animals at the Zoo, keepers provide Ari and Quon with enrichment activities to keep them healthy and active. A unique part of each species’ veterinary care, enrichment is a way to allow animals to perform natural behaviors, exhibit some sort of control over their environment, and stimulate their mind and body.

“We tend to focus on food-related enrichment for our gibbons because that’s what they respond most to,” said Froio. “We place some of their diet in food puzzles to give them an extra level of engagement, like the foraging they would have to do in their natural habitat.”

The Zoo is a member of the Gibbon Species Survival Plan (SSP), working alongside other member organizations to develop progressive husbandry, welfare, and management.
strategies, identify breeding recommendations to manage a genetically diverse population, and support gibbon conservation in the wild.

**IN THE WILD:**

Of the 18 species of gibbons in the wild, 17 of them, including the Northern White-Cheeked gibbons like Ari and Quon, are listed as either endangered or critically endangered. One of the chief causes of concern for gibbon populations is the loss of their Asian rainforest habitats.

The reason behind much of the deforestation? Human agriculture – specifically the cultivation and harvesting of palm oil. The oil, derived from the fruits of palm trees, has a wide variety of uses and applications, including food manufacturing, personal care and beauty products, cleaning products and biofuel. Consequently, the rainforests that gibbons, among many other species of flora and fauna, call home are shrinking at an alarming rate due to palm oil cultivation.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) said in a statement that the organization “recognizes that unsustainable palm oil production results in massive deforestation, rapid biodiversity loss in tropical ecosystems, and significant greenhouse gas emissions. Global consumption of palm oil and its derivatives is increasing, requiring strong conservation action to save species.”

If you want to do your part in help gibbon conservation worldwide, consider shopping smart when purchasing products containing palm oil. Apps like Sustainable Palm Oil Shopping (produced by Cheyenne Mountain Zoo) and Palm Smart can be great resources, giving consumers insight into where their products come from.

International Gibbon Day is all about raising public awareness for these lovable treetop dwellers, bringing animal lovers everywhere together to save them from extinction.

**To help promote the conservation of gibbons worldwide, consider supporting rainforest preservation initiatives and seek out sustainable sources of palm oil.**

**WHY THE LONG ARMS?**

On average, a gibbon’s front limbs are 1.5 times longer than their legs. If humans had the same proportions, a 5’4” tall person would have an armspan of over 10 and a half feet.

**NO FREE LUNCH**

At the Zoo, Ari and Quan are kept stimulated with puzzle feeders, encouraging their natural behaviors in foraging for their meals.
We have toadally awesome news! Nearly 1,000 Eastern spadefoot toads have been released into the wild.

Saving Rhode Island’s rarest amphibian is no easy feat. Earlier this year, your RWPZoo joined up with conservation partners to create new vernal habitat pools as part of Operation Spadefoot RI, a habitat restoration project aimed to repopulate the endangered eastern spadefoot toad.

Volunteers and collaborative partner team members onsite dug, lined, and seeded two pools on land owned by the South Kingstown Land Trust with the hopes of serving as breeding grounds for this species.

After heavy rains during hurricane Henri in late August, we were excited to discover spadefoots bred at one of the pool sites. As the weather warmed and the pool dried up, a team was able to collect and rescue the tadpoles. These tadpoles were raised under the thoughtful eye of Director of Conservation Programs, Lou Perrotti until they were fully morphed.

In late September, over 300 were released to the site they came from, and the rest were introduced to two other artificial breeding sites in efforts to expand the range of this state endangered species in Rhode Island!

Although their populations have declined in recent decades, we hope these younglings will flourish for future generations. As leaders in conservation and animal care, it is our mission to continue to conserve wildlife and wild places.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts by RI Department of Environmental Management, University of Rhode Island, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA), South Kingstown Land Trusts, Rhode Island Natural History Survey, and your RWPZoo - there is hope for this species.

Get TOAD know one of the Northeast’s rarest amphibians:

- Eastern spadefoot toads require very specific environmental conditions for breeding involving just the right amount of sunlight and water in vernal pools (short-lived shallow wetlands that usually contain water for only part of the year).

- This species plays an important role in the ecosystem – its burrowing helps fertilize the soil, and it is an essential part of the food chain.

- These highly adapted toads possess bulging eyes and short legs, with a spade-like appendage on its hind legs that allows them to burrow into the ground, where it stays moist, cool, and out-of-sight from predators.

- The main threat against spadefoot toads is continued human development, which intrudes upon or completely removes their breeding pools.
**Sock Pumpkins**
*(from Meaningful Mama)*

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**
- Orange Sock
- Rice or Beans
- Rubber Band
- Black and Green Felt
- Scissors (with adult supervision)
- Large Googly Eyes
- Stick
- Fabric Glue or Hot Glue (with adult supervision)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**
1. Turn an orange sock inside out and fill the sock halfway with beans or rice. **Note:** You can stretch the sock over a cup to fill it more easily.
2. Take a stick or twig from outside and put it in the center of the open sock, into the rice or beans. This will be the pumpkin’s stem.
3. Wrap a rubber band around the sock and stick to hold it closed and tight.
4. Pull the top of the sock back down around the base of your pumpkin.
5. Cut out (with adult supervision) leaves, nose and mouth out of felt. Use googly eyes or cut some eyes of your own out of felt.
6. Glue on your leaves, eyes, nose and mouth to your pumpkin.

**Try this:**
Not all pumpkins are orange—Some pumpkins can be red, green, blue, yellow, or even white and tan! Use whatever color socks you’d like to add new pumpkins to your patch!

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**Kids’ Corner**

1. Able to grow to the size of a dinner plate, what is the largest known species of tarantula?
   - a. Pink Toe Tarantula
   - b. Hercules Baboon Spider
   - c. King Tarantula
   - d. Goliath Birdeater

Most people have heard that owls can turn their heads almost 360 degrees—but do you know why they do this?
   - a. It’s a relaxing behavior when they’re tired—like getting a neck massage
   - b. They are unable to move their eyes—so they must move their whole head to see their surroundings
   - c. It’s a non-vocal way to communicate with other owls
   - d. It allows them to turn their ears toward the source of any noise—giving them surround-sound hearing.

Black cats are commonly associated with bad luck. However, in some cultures the opposite is true. In which of these countries is a black cat generally considered good luck?
   - a. England
   - b. Japan
   - c. Ireland
   - d. All of the above

Less than 1.5 inches in length on average, the _______ is the smallest species of bat in the world.
   - a. Tiny bat
   - b. Bumblebee bat
   - c. Butterfly Bat
   - d. Vampire Bat

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**Guess Zoo?**
Can you tell what these spooky creatures are from a close-up picture?

Answers located on bottom of page.
It’s always a good idea to take some time to take it easy, especially on International Sloth Day! Here at RWPZoo, we are home to four Linne’s two-toed sloths: Fiona, Beanie, Westley, and Riley. Riley is an ambassador animal and spends his time behind-the-scenes, while our family of three can be found in their Faces of the Rainforest habitat.

Linne’s two-toed sloths are native to the tropical rainforests of Central to South America. As their name suggests, the front limbs of these tree-dwelling herbivores have - you guessed it – two toes. However, like all species of sloths, its rear limb has three toes. Their curved, sharp claws are 3-4 inches long and all four feet have very calloused pads. These adaptations make sloths perfectly suited for life upside down in the trees.

Sloths rarely come down from the canopy level of the rain forest, so if you’re ever on the lookout for these slow-moving mammals … just look up!

Advice from Beanie, your guide to be a better sloth:

Take it easy

- On average, sloths travel 41 yards per day—less than half the length of a football field! Why do they move so slowly? It’s to conserve energy. A sloth’s diet is primarily full of leafy greens and low in calories which matches their slow metabolism. To save energy they move at a relaxing pace and don’t wander too far from home.

Try to make time to exercise

- Dozing off or working out? Sloths are the undeniable pull-up world champions and they’re 3X stronger than the average human! Special tendons in their hands and feet lock into place, allowing them to hang upside down for long
periods of time without wasting any energy. This also allows them the ability to sleep while hanging from tree branches.

Eat your veggies

- Sloths eat a variety of leaves, veggies, and some fruit. They have a large, four-chambered stomach, like a cow. Even their innards move slowly, and some food items can take days or even up to an entire month to digest!

Get plenty of rest

- Sloths sleep in trees, and they sleep a lot—some 15 to 20 hours every day.

Cuddles are great

- Baby sloths will cling to their moms for nearly the first full year of their lives, then continue to stay by their mother’s side and within the same territory.

Don’t skip dental care

- Linne’s two-toed sloths are born with a set of small molars that continuously grow but are constantly ground down by chewing. Due to a lack of front teeth, they use their hardened lips to grasp and tear vegetation.

FUN FACT:

On average sloths move along the trees at only 8-10 feet a minute. At top speed, that’s 600 ft/hour! For a comparison, the average walking speed for human is 3-4 mph!