

Lincoln Children's

Zootracks



FALL | 2023

MEET SASHA & ZURI!

LEAVING A LEGACY

**INTERVIEW WITH A
ZOO KEEPER**



Lincoln Children's Zoo

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Lincoln Children's Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums



Lincoln Children's Zoo is a member of Give Nebraska. Learn more at: GiveNebraska.org



MISSION:
To enrich lives through firsthand interaction with living things.



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The fastest cubs around!



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Meet Keeper Daniel!

LET'S BE SOCIAL!   

- FOLLOW** us @LincolnChildrensZoo on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube
- SHARE** your memories and photos on Instagram and Facebook by tagging the Zoo and using #LNKzoo

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THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



Cheetah Cub Corner



This summer the Zoo welcomed two female cheetah cubs, Sasha and Zuri! The cubs arrived in Lincoln on June 19, 2023. Sasha and Zuri were born at Wildlife Safari in Oregon on May 8 and moved to Lincoln Children's Zoo on the recommendation of the Association of Zoos and Aquarium's (AZA) Cheetah Species Survival Plan (SSP). The SSP identified Lincoln Children's Zoo as a great fit for these cubs to be ambassadors for their species.

Cheetahs are a vulnerable species, meaning they face a high risk of extinction. Less than 7,100 cheetahs remain in the wild, and that number continues to decline. These cubs will become ambassadors for their species, helping to educate the public and engage with them about wildlife

conservation through encounters at the Cheetah Chase Theater. The animal care team started training with the cubs when they arrived. Currently the goal is basic manners, desensitization to audio and visual surroundings, and crating utilizing positive reinforcement. The Zoo will continue to develop these behaviors as well as incorporate behaviors that will eventually help them succeed in the cheetah run.

Sasha and Zuri were named by the Lincoln community! The Zoo received over 500 name suggestions through social media for the cubs. The team looked through all the suggestions and narrowed the list down to four name pairings: Dolly and Daisy, Imara and Safia, Piper and Paisley and Sasha and Zuri. The public was able to vote on their favorite name

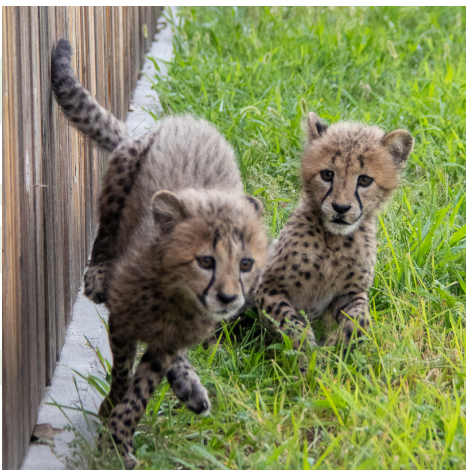
pairing and over 5,000 votes were cast! Sasha and Zuri received the most votes and thus our cheetahs had names!

Guests can meet Sasha and Zuri at Cheetah Cub Corner at the Cheetah Chase Theater. Check the Animal Encounter Times Board located next to the Zoo Map for each day's schedule. At Cheetah Cub Corner, guests will learn all about cheetahs from zookeepers. The cubs can also be seen in the afternoon at their new habitat on the historic side of the Zoo next to the colobus monkeys. Please note that the cubs may not always be in their habitat space due to Cheetah Cub Corner, feedings, breaks, and training sessions.

SYMBOLIC ADOPTIONS!

Adopt Sasha and Zuri!
Your Symbolic Adoption helps support the care of the animals at the Zoo!

Scan to adopt Sasha and Zuri!



John Chapo: Leaving A Legacy

For over 37 years, John Chapo has worked tirelessly to make Lincoln Children's Zoo a cherished part of the community and a beloved place for families to enjoy memorable, educational, and enriching experiences. As John's retirement approaches at the end of this year, we've spent a lot of time reflecting on the work he has done throughout his career and there is no doubt that he has left a huge impact on our Zoo and community for all time.

Did you know that Lincoln Children's Zoo was not an accredited zoo when John first started in 1986? Under John's guidance, the Zoo first received accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) in 1990 and has continuously been granted accreditation ever since. This is a HUGE accomplishment considering AZA's rigorous standards that examine all aspects of the zoo including animal welfare, veterinary care, keeper training, safety, educational programs, conservation efforts, and more.

John brought the community together in a mission to raise funds for the Zoo's largest expansion and in 2019 we saw that dream come to life. Due to John's dedication, children and families are now able to feed a giraffe all year round, climb with spider monkeys in the Secret Jungle, witness the beauty of an endangered species such as the Sumatran tiger, watch a cheetah run, and learn more about animals and the natural world.

The Children at the Zoo (CATZ) program ensures access to the Zoo for all members of the Lincoln community to experience learning firsthand, regardless of their financial circumstances. John was an integral part of its creation over 20 years ago and since then, the program has contributed over \$7 million worth of Zoo memberships and admission tickets to low-income families in the community.

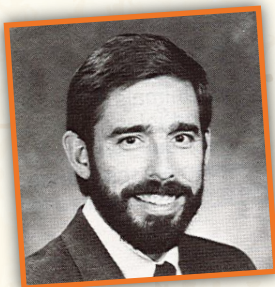
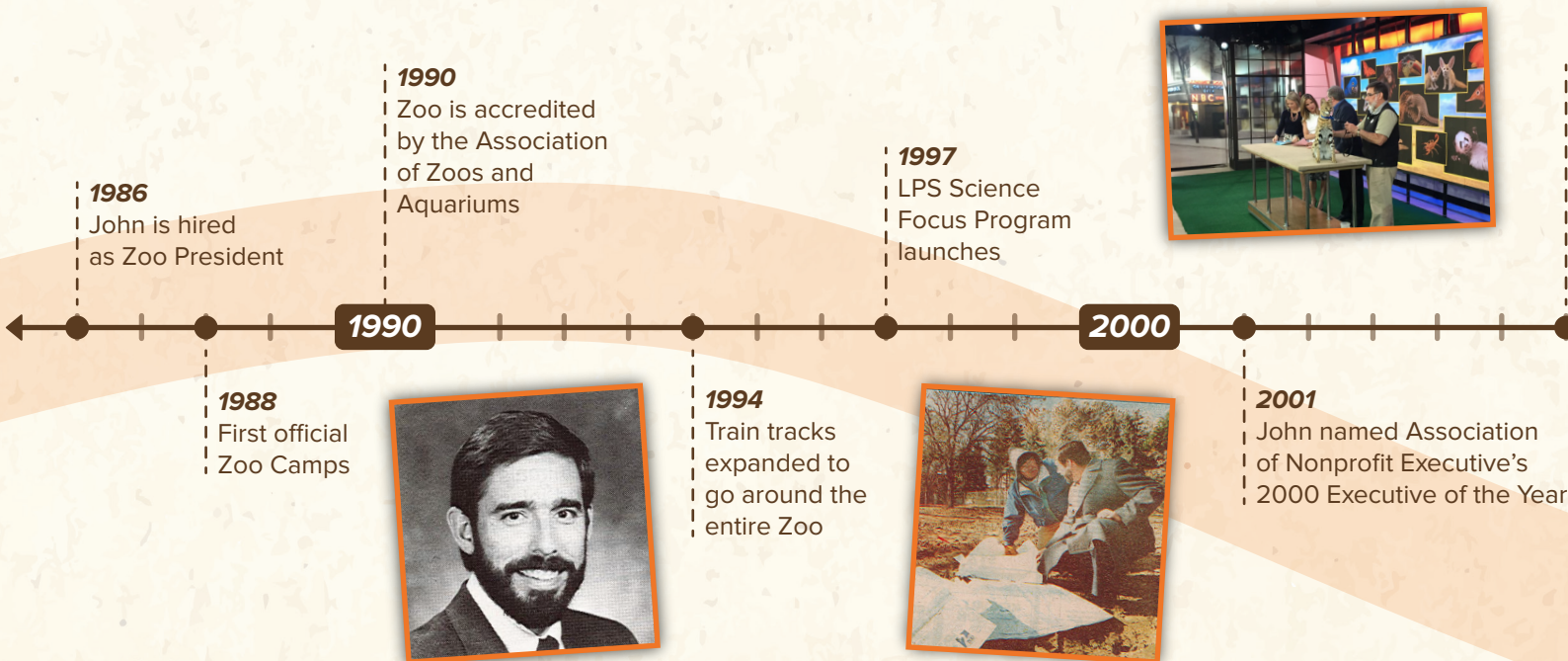
John was fundamental in starting the Lincoln Public Schools Science Focus Program at the Zoo in 1997. The program has grown exponentially since then and is now

in multiple locations throughout the Lincoln community.

While the list of work he has done for the Zoo goes on, John has also built and fostered relationships between the Zoo and the community that will span generations, and he's left a mark on the world by being a part of a multitude of conservation efforts and through the births of hundreds of endangered animals.

This is just a small sample of the incredible work that John Chapo has pioneered and been an integral part of since 1986.

We know the Lincoln community and those of us at Lincoln Children's Zoo will miss his consistent presence, whether in person, on TV or dressed as The Wizard during Boo at the Zoo. We are thankful for his years of dedication and are excited for him to take a much-deserved retirement. Lincoln Children's Zoo will continue to grow and prosper for years to come and that is all because John paved the way and set us up to continue his legacy long after he's gone.





2006
Joel Sartore launches the Photo Ark with a photo of a naked mole rat at Lincoln Children's Zoo



2019
The Zoo's largest expansion opens, doubling the size of the Zoo!

2022
First baby giraffe is born at the Zoo!

John wins Henry Fonda award from the Nebraska Tourism Commission.

2010

2020

2007
Zoo receives National Award for Museum Science from the Institute of Museums and Library Services at the White House

2015
Zoo's 50th anniversary

2013
Zoofari with Larry the Cable Guy produced



2023
John retires from Lincoln Children's Zoo.

HAVE A

WILD

**BIRTHDAY
AT THE ZOO!**

Create the perfect party for the animal lover in your life! Gather your friends and family at the Zoo for gifts, food and fun! Make lasting memories with options for unlimited train rides and critter encounters.



VIEW PARTY PACKAGES AT LINCOLNZOO.ORG

HOST YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY AT THE ZOO!

From November 24-December 30, Lincoln Children's Zoo is transformed into a magical holiday wonderland and one of the largest lights displays in the Midwest. Enjoy a spacious indoor event space and group discounts for attendees to experience Zoo Lights Powered by LES, making Lincoln Children's Zoo the perfect spot to host your holiday event!



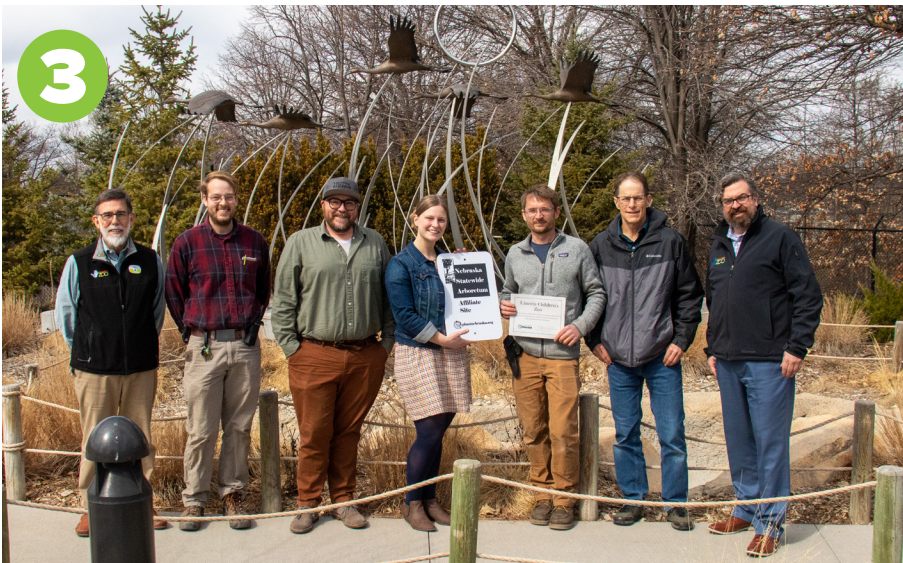
LEARN MORE & BOOK YOUR EVENT AT LINCOLNZOO.ORG

ZOO NEWS!



1. SALT CREEK TIGER BEETLE RELEASE

Our Zoo helped in reintroducing 221 Salt Creek tiger beetle larvae to a restored saline wetland habitat in Lancaster County. The Salt Creek tiger beetle is one of the world's rarest insects. This endangered species is only found along the Salt Creek in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Zoo is part of an ongoing effort to raise Salt Creek tiger beetles and reintroduce them into suitable habitats.



2. BABY GOATS

Two baby goats were born at the Zoo this summer! Have you met Graham or Miles yet?

3. NEBRASKA STATEWIDE ARBORETUM AFFILIATE

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum (NSA) named the Lincoln Children's Zoo a Landscape Steward Affiliate Site. The Zoo features around 300 species of plants and trees, approximately a third of which are native to the Great Plains region. The Zoo is one of more than 100 Accredited Arboretums and Landscape Steward Affiliate Sites across Nebraska.



4. ZOO LIGHTS POWERED BY LES

Lincoln's favorite holiday tradition is almost here! Zoo Lights Powered by LES begins on November 24th. Experience multiple light shows choreographed to music, hanging vine lights, light tunnels, over 30 lit animal silhouettes holiday train rides, hot cocoa, s'mores and more! Learn more at LincolnZoo.org.



collectible poster



FASCINATING FACTS

- CUBS ARE BORN BLIND AND WILL OPEN THEIR EYES 4-11 DAYS AFTER BIRTH.
- CUBS HAVE A THICK SILVERY-GREY MANTLE DOWN THEIR BACK. THIS HELPS TO CAMOUFLAGE THE CUBS BY IMITATING THE LOOK OF THE AGGRESSIVE HONEY BADGER.

Hello
my name is

Zuri
(The Cheetah)

MEET KEEPER

DANIEL



BECOMING A ZOOKEEPER

How did you get your start as a zookeeper?

I have had many experiences that ultimately led me to become a Zookeeper. My bachelor's degree in environmental science, however, started my passion for Conservation and Education. After graduating college, I knew I wanted to focus on helping people understand the importance of conserving the natural world. I eventually went back to school to get an additional degree in Zoo Animal Technology from Santa Fe College, in Gainesville, FL. I then accepted a Job here at the Lincoln Children's Zoo and have been here ever since.

What is your favorite part of your job?

I really enjoy training with the animals and teaching people about how we can make a difference for the wildlife that we see around us.

What advice would you give to future zookeepers?

Zookeeping is both very rewarding and challenging at the same time. It is also a very competitive field so getting started with volunteering and internships early is always a good idea.

TAKING CARE OF ANIMALS

Tell us about the animals in your care.

I work with the Ambassador animals that participate in Education programs for the zoo. That means I work with many different animals. Being an Ambassador Animal Keeper means that I get to do a lot of training and develop really close relationships with the animals. Each animal is unique and rewarding in its own way.

What is your favorite animal you work with and why?

I have two favorite animals that I work with. The first would have to be Johnny the African Serval. He is really fun to train and do programs with. The second is the Cheetahs, they are full of personality and are a great challenge to work with.

What is your typical day like?

One of the things that I like as an Ambassador Keeper is that my day is never the same. I also get to work with a very wide range of animals. One day I could be working with cheetahs and anteaters and the next day working with macaws and a sloth. In the summers I am usually a part of our Animal Encounters at the Cheetah Chase Theater and Wild Safari Theater.



THE ZOO IS A SENSORY INCLUSIVE LOCATION!

SENSORY BAGS ARE AVAILABLE TO CHECKOUT FOR FREE AT THE GIFT SHOP!

LEARN MORE ABOUT SENSORY INCLUSION AND SEE THE ZOO'S SOCIAL STORY AT [KULTURECITY.ORG](https://www.kulturecity.org)



JOIN THE ZOO TEAM!

FULL-TIME & PART-TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

VIEW OPEN POSITIONS ON [INDEED.COM](https://www.indeed.com)

A LETTER FROM THE WIZARD!

Hello my fellow trick-or-treaters!

Candy apples, it's been a while since we've spoken! I can't wait to see you all again at Boo at the Zoo! Five nights of costumes, pumpkins, candy, tricks and treats! I look forward to this not-so-scary halloween event all year long! I love it more than jack-o-lanterns, more than spook-tacular costumes, and even more than candy. Yes! You heard that right, I love Boo at the Zoo more than I love candy. Did you know that over one million pieces of candy are passed out every year? Looks like you love candy as much as I do!

I hope you didn't forget about all the spooky fun to be had in the year since I last saw you. My visit to the Zoo during Boo at the Zoo is the highlight of my year. I don't want you to miss out so here are some highlights of this fang-tastic event. Every night from October 26 - 30 the Zoo will transform into the largest trick-or-treat event in Lincoln! Volunteers at over 30 trick-or-treat booths from local businesses and organizations will be ready to help you fill your treat bags with candy and coupons. Plus brand new this year, you can join us during the day on Sunday, Oct. 29th!

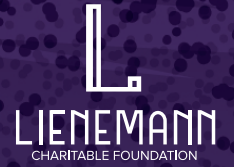
If you need another reason to love Boo at the Zoo besides candy, pumpkins, and all things merry-not-scary, Boo at the Zoo is one of the largest fundraisers for the Zoo! Funds from your tickets and treat bags help support the Zoo and care for the amazing animals who live there. This is something you don't want to miss! I'll be here rain or shine or snow or candy falling from the sky. Jumping jack-o-lanterns, wouldn't that be fun! A candy rainstorm! Anyway, I will be here ready to welcome you to the Zoo and enjoying all the candy and pumpkins and Halloween fun!

Now hold on to your candy bags, I have some news to share. This will be the last time I visit you at Boo at the Zoo. On October 31st, I am retiring to Fogwarts, the place for foggy and forgetful wizards. There are tons of fun activities to do at Fogwarts like learning new magic tricks! They teach a whole course on how to multiply candy! Can you imagine never running out of candy? I can't wait! I have loved spending time with you during Boo at the Zoo each year, but it is time for me to go to my next adventure. But don't worry, Boo at the Zoo will still be a spook-tacular time for the whole family for years to come!

Well, I should get back to preparing for the most spook-tacular event at the Zoo! I can't wait to see you there!

The Wizard

Proud Sponsor



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LINCOLNZOO.ORG**



**NEW!
DAYTIME
HOURS ON
OCT. 29TH!**

Lincoln Children's ZOO

**BOO AT THE
ZOO**

OCTOBER 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

It's Twins!

On June 25, 2023, twin red panda cubs were born at Lincoln Children's Zoo! The male cubs, named William and Robin, were born to second-time mom, Tián, and first-time dad, Rowan. In 2022, Tián gave birth to Betty, the first red panda cub born at the Zoo in eight years.

This birth is incredibly important for animal conservation efforts. Red pandas are an endangered species and face a very high risk of extinction with less than 10,000 remaining in the wild.

Newborn red panda cubs are about the size of a twinkie with thick gray fur and are born with their eyes and ears closed. They have grown quite a lot since they were born in June and have even started exploring their habitat! Both cubs are male, but zookeepers can tell them apart by their size and color. William is bigger and more grayish and lighter in color. Robin is the smaller one and has always been a bit darker in color.

After giving birth, in the wild female red pandas will use tree hollows or rock crevices lined with plant material for nests. To replicate this, Zookeepers at the Lincoln Children's Zoo created six nest boxes behind the scenes with bamboo and wood

wool inside as nesting material. The multiple nest boxes allow Tián to choose which box she wants them in. Red panda moms will move their cubs around to keep them away from predators or when there are environmental stressors. Mothers will spend almost all their time in the nest box with the cub for the first few weeks after giving birth and as the cub gets older, they will spend longer periods of time away but remain nearby.

The Lincoln Children's Zoo is part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Species Survival Plan Program. The program develops a Breeding and Transfer Plan which identifies population goals and recommendations to manage a genetically diverse, demographically varied, and biologically sound population. The plan's coordinators approved breeding recommendations for the Zoo's red pandas Tián and Rowan.

Tián, William, and Robin currently have access to their exhibit space; however, the cubs continue to spend most of their time behind-the-scenes as they grow. They have ventured out into their habitat a few times already, but guests will likely not see them regularly until later this fall.



William



Robin



ZOO!

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

OCT.
26
-
30

BOO AT THE ZOO | 5:30 - 8 P.M. & 1 - 4 P.M. (OCT 29TH ONLY)

Boo at the Zoo is Lincoln's largest trick-or-treat event. The entire family will love stopping at trick-or-treat booths to get candy, coupons, and more. All of the money raised during Boo at the Zoo directly supports the Zoo and its animals.

PROUD SPONSOR



NOVEMBER

NOV.
24
-
30

ZOO LIGHTS POWERED BY LES | 5:30 - 9 P.M.

Don't miss Lincoln's favorite holiday tradition! Experience multiple light shows choreographed to music, hanging vine lights, light tunnels, over 30 lit animal silhouettes holiday train rides, hot cocoa, s'mores and more!

PROUD SPONSOR



DECEMBER

DEC.
!
-
30

ZOO LIGHTS POWERED BY LES | 5:30 - 9 P.M.

Don't miss Lincoln's favorite holiday tradition! Experience multiple light shows choreographed to music, hanging vine lights, light tunnels, over 30 lit animal silhouettes holiday train rides, hot cocoa, s'mores and more!

PROUD SPONSOR



WHAT DO GHOSTS WEAR TO HELP THEIR EYESIGHT?
SPOOKTACLES.



HOW DO YOU FIX A DAMAGED JACK-O-LANTERN?
YOU USE A PUMPKIN PATCH!

HOW DO GHOSTS SEARCH THE WEB?
THEY USE GHOUL-GLE.

PHOEBE'S FAVORITE JOKES!
HALLOWEEN

WHAT HAS HUNDREDS OF EARS BUT CAN'T HEAR A THING?
A CORNFIELD!

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE ANIMAL JOKE? EMAIL THEM TO CONTACT@LINCOLNZOO.ORG FOR A CHANCE TO BE FEATURED IN ZOOTRACKS!

WORD SEARCH

- Bat
- Boo
- Candy
- Cat
- Costume
- Ghost
- Halloween
- Monster
- Mummy
- Pumpkin
- Skeleton
- Spider
- Spooky
- Web
- Witch

V	H	S	G	R	W	C	P	M	S	Q	B	Z	N	L	B	D	A
P	H	P	H	P	E	L	H	U	P	E	G	C	U	A	X	C	W
S	D	O	Y	J	I	T	N	E	M	S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N
M	F	O	M	L	Y	Q	S	D	S	P	M	S	W	A	F	Y	J
T	P	K	M	L	Y	Z	H	N	U	J	K	Y	F	T	S	O	C
A	A	Y	U	N	U	C	S	O	O	Z	R	I	Z	X	F	X	C
T	J	B	M	X	T	F	H	H	Y	M	C	Z	N	E	V	G	H
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F	E	U	A	B	E	O	H	M	H	T	T	T	A	C	U	I	S
N	H	M	X	R	E	D	I	P	S	H	G	D	G	A	L	F	N

FOLLOW THE PATH

Follow the path to connect the two pieces of candy corn.



COSTUME PICKER



Need costume ideas for Boo at the Zoo? Use your birthday to find your costume!

MONTH

JANUARY	SASSY
FEBRUARY	GRUMPY
MARCH	EVIL
APRIL	BASHFUL
MAY	COOL
JUNE	CUTE
JULY	CONFUSED
AUGUST	ANGRY
SEPTEMBER	SLEEPY
OCTOBER	HAPPY
NOVEMBER	PLAYFUL
DECEMBER	SILLY

DAY

1	TIGER	16	TEACHER
2	FIREFIGHTER	17	ROBOT
3	RED PANDA	18	PIRATE
4	SLOTH	19	ASTRONAUT
5	ANTEATER	20	DINOSAUR
6	PUMPKIN	21	CAT
7	GIRAFFE	22	RABBIT
8	PRINCESS	23	SUPERHERO
9	MONKEY	24	GHOST
10	TACO	25	CHEETAH
11	LOBSTER	26	KNIGHT
12	MERMAID	27	DRAGON
13	DOG	28	ATHLETE
14	FARMER	29	POP STAR
15	ZOMBIE	30	COWBOY
		31	CHEF



LINCOLN CHILDREN'S
ZOO
LIGHTS
POWERED BY *LES*

The Holiday Tradition Continues!

Nov. 24 - Dec. 30

Light Shows • Light Tunnels • Holiday Train Rides • & More!

Tickets on sale November 6th!

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LINCOLNZOO.ORG

