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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Zoo Atlanta celebrates Georgia's Pre-K Week

Georgia's Pre-K Week, October 6-10, 2014, includes discount admission for Pre-K Classes, special shows and activities

ATLANTA, Ga., (September 17, 2014) – Calling all Georgia's Pre-K classes! As an extension of its partnership with Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), Zoo Atlanta is offering Pre-K Week **October 6-10, 2014**, to celebrate Georgia's nationally recognized Pre-K Program that has served over 1.3 million children since it began in 1992.

Participate in Zoo Atlanta's Pre-K Week by scheduling a Self-Guided Field Trip at the discounted rate of \$9 per person (one chaperone per every ten students is required and admitted FREE). Enjoy special activities that include costume characters welcoming teachers and students as they arrive in Flamingo Plaza from 9:30 to 11:00 AM; Animal Tales storybook readings in Amy's Tree at 10:00 AM; and a private Wildlife Theater bird show geared toward the Pre-K audience at 11:00 AM. To register, visit <http://www.zooatlanta.org/home/events>.

“We are very appreciative of our partnership with Zoo Atlanta that already offers Educator Appreciation Days in the fall and spring of each year with free admission for teachers and discounts for their guests,” said DECAL Interim Commissioner Amy Jacobs. “We look forward to seeing many Pre-K classes join us for this exciting week at Zoo Atlanta.”

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Approximately 60% of all four-year-olds in Georgia are served by Georgia's Pre-K Program and Head Start, with a statewide Pre-K enrollment of nearly 84,000.

About Zoo Atlanta

An accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), Zoo Atlanta inspires value and preservation of wildlife through a unique mix of education and outdoor family fun. From well-known native wildlife to critically endangered species on the brink of extinction, the Zoo offers memorable close encounters with more than 1,500 animals from around the world. A slate of new up-close-and-personal experiences opened recently: giraffe feeding, permitting guests to hand-feed Earth's tallest living land mammals, and Wild Encounters, behind-the-scenes adventures with African elephants and giant pandas. Lemurs and Aldabra tortoises joined Wild Encounters offerings in 2013.

Other highlights include the only pair of surviving panda twins ever born in the U.S., the nation's largest collection of western lowland gorillas, the nation's largest zoological collection of orangutans and a global center of excellence for the care and study of vanishing reptiles and amphibians. The Zoo is open daily with the exceptions of Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Keeper talks, interactive wildlife shows, education programs and special events run year-round. For more information, call 404.624.WILD or visit www.zooatlanta.org.

About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia's Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.state.ga.us.