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Celebrate Halloween at the South Carolina State Museum

Tricks and Treats, Growl at the Moon and laser lights shows held during October at the State Museum

COLUMBIA, S.C., Friday, Oct. 10, 2014 – Ghosts, goblins and monsters are haunting the galleries and theaters at the South Carolina State Museum this Halloween season. During the month of October, the museum is hosting a variety of Halloween-themed special events and laser light shows for guests of all ages.

Tricks and Treats, the State Museum's annual Halloween event, is back for two weekends of family-fun from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 18 and Saturday, Oct. 25. Tricks and Treats will feature a haunted Halloween party with games and prizes, a scavenger hunt, creepy crafts, balloon art, face and pumpkin painting and Halloween bags and treats. The museum will feature a Wizard Academy school fair highlighting various classes and activities, including potions, divination, transfiguration, wand-making and more. Children will be sorted into their wizard houses and will select a special wizard name.

In the BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina planetarium, guests can see *HalloScream Laser Lights*, a slightly spooky, yet family-fun laser light show featuring a variety of Halloween musical favorites, including "Thriller," "Monster Mash" and "Ghostbusters." Also playing is *Legends of the Night Sky: Perseus and Andromeda*, a laser light cartoon that takes a lighthearted look at the myths and stories associated with fall constellations. *HalloScream Laser Lights* will play at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. and *Legends of the Night Sky: Perseus and Andromeda* will play at 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the planetarium.

Wear a costume to Tricks and Treats and receive \$1 off museum general admission for the day. Tricks & Treats activities are included with museum general admission or membership. There is an additional fee to see the laser light shows.

"We have a great lineup of activities this year for the Halloween season," said Merritt McHaffie, director of marketing, S.C. State Museum. "In addition to our annual traditions, this year we're introducing laser light shows and a new after-hours Halloween party that will be lots of fun for our adult guests."

For the adults looking to channel the Halloween spirit with something a little creepy, yet spooktacular, the State Museum has the perfect event. Come "Growl at the Moon" at the museum's after hours Halloween party from 7 – 10 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 30. The event will feature laser light shows, lunar observing, art, live music, craft beer, heavy hors d'oeuvres and custom beer growlers. It's a chance to look at the moon from the museum's new observatory and sit back and enjoy an entrancing laser light show set to the music of Pink Floyd in *Laser Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon*. *Laser Floyd* will play at 8:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Werewolf and other costumes are highly encouraged. Growl at the Moon is \$35/person (\$28/members) and includes food, beer, admission to the laser light shows and a costume beer growler to take home. Please note: Observing can be done only if the sky is clear and may be canceled if the weather does not permit. Space is limited, so purchase tickets soon at scmuseum.org.

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The fun doesn't stop there! Join the museum on Halloween day, Friday, Oct. 31 for *HalloScream Laser Lights* and *Legends of the Night Sky: Perseus and Andromeda*. Both laser light shows will take place during the day in the planetarium. There will be Halloween candy at several locations throughout the museum. Visit scmuseum.org for a full schedule of show times. Come dressed up and receive \$1 off museum general admission.

HalloScream Laser Lights and *Laser Floyd: Dark Side of the Moon* are also playing every Tuesday in October during Second Shift Twosdays. Every Tuesday in October, *HalloScream* will play at 6 p.m. and *Laser Floyd* will play at 7 p.m.

Please note: Laser shows contain bright, flashing lights that may cause discomfort to those with light sensitivity or other pre-existing conditions. Visit scmuseum.org for more information about the Halloween activities taking place at the State Museum.

About the South Carolina State Museum: *As the state's largest and most comprehensive museum, the South Carolina State Museum, offers a unique, entertaining and educational experience to visitors throughout its 225,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Columbia's Congaree Vista. The State Museum is housed in one of its greatest artifacts, an 1894 old textile mill full of character and charm. In addition to beautiful meeting spaces throughout the facility, guests can explore outer space in one of the largest planetariums in the Southeast, watch an interactive 4D movie and look through a vintage telescope in a one-of-a-kind observatory. These exciting opportunities are all in addition to the four floors of South Carolina art, cultural history, natural history and science/technology that guests can experience. For more information about the museum, visit scmuseum.org.*

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Halloween Cutline:

The South Carolina State Museum is celebrating Halloween with a variety special events and laser light shows taking place throughout October. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more. *Photo courtesy of the S.C. State Museum*