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SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN SAFARI OVERNIGHT OCT. 26

PHILADELPHIA — Mad scientists, spooky specimens, food favorites of the prehistoric dead. They're all part of The Academy of Natural Sciences' Spooktacular Safari Overnight, Friday, Oct. 26, just days before the big day, Halloween.

Gather the kids, the pajamas and the costumes and experience the Academy museum and its creepy contents after dark. Before rolling out the sleeping bags to bed down with the Mesozoic monsters and mummies, the family will enjoy a night of nature-ally fun and enlightening programs.

The evening will begin with a costume parade and prizes for the Most Creative, Scariest, Best Overall and Best Group Costumes. The mad scientists will bring out from the shadows some of the more ghoulish animal specimens that are part of the Academy's world-renowned research collections, such as bats in big glass jars, scary skulls and unusual skins. The live nocturnal animals that are part of the Academy's Live Animal Center will be waiting to meet visitors, who will also learn what the prehistoric animals like *T. rex* used to eat for dinner.

The overnight begins 6:30 p.m. Oct. 26 and goes to 9 a.m. Oct. 27. The overnight is appropriate for children ages 7 to 14. One adult is required for three children. Adults \$35, children \$40. Academy members get \$5 off. Fee includes snack, breakfast and next-day admission. For more information and reservations call 215 299-1060 and log on to http://www.ansp.org/activities/halloween_overnight.php

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The Academy is located at 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway and is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends until 5 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for children ages 3-12, seniors, college students with I.D. and military personnel, and free for children under 3. There is an additional \$2 fee for "Butterflies!"

The Academy of Natural Sciences is Philadelphia's natural history museum and a world leader in biodiversity and environmental research. The mission of the Academy is the encouragement and cultivation of the sciences.