***Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats***

**May 19-Sept. 16, 2018**

**Major Themes and Components**

**History**

“Masters of the Night: The True Story of Bats,” is a traveling exhibition aimed at bringing the mysterious nature of bats out of the dark. It’s a fun learning experience that seeks to dispel the myths about these creatures and provide visitors with a greater understanding of the world’s most misunderstood mammal.

**Interactives**

The exhibit features special effects, interactive displays and a Gothic castle! An 18th- century neo-Gothic portal transports visitors into the exhibit while providing examples of folklore and myths. Visitors will have the opportunity to make and take home a picture of a bat, listen through the ears of a bat, practice echolocation, get an up-close look at how bats fly, learn where they live, how much they eat in a night and the crucial role they play in maintaining environmental balance. Examine a scale model of the new University of Florida Bat Barn, learn about bats in Florida with CT scans and specimens from the Florida Museum’s collection and use a MicroEye microscope to examine a bat skull, poop and skin. Guests can also learn about the latest research from UF and museum scientists and see how bats are collected and prepared for the collection.

**Highlights**

* **Bats Around the World**

Learn about bat diversity with an interactive world map. Visitors can predict and check to see where each species lives with backlit sections revealing the number of species living in an area.

* **Bat Prints**

Take home a picture of a bat! Metal plates with images and an interesting fact about six separate species are available for guests to make a crayon rubbing of their favorite bat.

* **I’m All Ears**

‘See’ what being a bat is like! Aim two large bat ears around the room to experience sound through a bat’s ears.

* **Echo, Echo**

Learn about echolocation with cave shafts. Visitors will have a hands-on demonstration of bats’ personalized sonar system and learn how they measure distances using the delay in their voices returning.

* **Feast and Flight**

Get an up-close look at the only mammal capable of flight. This interactive element allows guests to see flight acrobatics, feeding behaviors and food sources while being able to freeze or slow the video for a better look.

* **The Importance of Being Bats**

Learn about the ecological significance of these misunderstood creatures. Interlinked displays will reveal the environmental consequences of a world without bats.

* **One Night’s Meal**

Just how much does a bat eat in a night? Guests will learn about bats’ huge appetites and have the opportunity to weigh bat models, insects, fruits and nectar on a scale.

* **Where Bats Live**

Five dioramas reveal bats in many hiding places in their natural habitats.

* **Find the Baby Bat**

Help a mother bat find her pup using just sound in this interactive maze.

* **A Closer Look**

Learn about bats inside and out by using a MicroEye microscope to examine their poop, skin and skulls.

* **Local Bats**

Check out specimens from the museum’s collections and learn about Florida’s 13 native bat species.

* **Large Video**

See the real world of bats through a 60-inch projection unit. Bat flight, diversity and beauty are depicted in this larger-than-life video.

* **Bat Models**

Visitors can experience hands-on learning with large models of multiple bat species. Models of bat heads will illustrate the variety and diversity of different species.