***Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs***

**Sept. 29, 2018-May 5, 2019**

**Major Themes and Components**

**History**

Step back in time 290 million years when bizarre-looking animals dominated life on land and sea, and find out about the greatest extinction the world has ever seen in “Permian Monsters: Life before the Dinosaurs.” This unique traveling exhibition brings the past to life with fossilized skeletons and full-sized replicas of the animals that ruled the world millions of years before the age of dinosaurs.

**Interactives**

The exhibit features seven animatronic figures, real fossils and touch-screen games. Gain a glimpse into the period with paintings from award-winning paleo-artist Julius Csotonyi. See models of giant insects, bizarre-looking sharks and strange reptiles with mammal-like characteristics. Meet the top predator of the time, the giant saber-toothed Gorgonopsid, and sift through four interactive dig pits.

**Highlights**

* **Interactive Dig Pits**

See what it’s like to be a paleontologist and sift through four interactive dig pits to see what you can find.

* **Animatronic Figures**

Step into the past with life-like robots of seven different creatures from the Permian Period:

Cotylorhynchus: The herbivorous Cotylorhynchus is considered the largest terrestrial vertebrate of the early Permian Period, stretching from 10-20 feet-long and weighing more than a ton.

Dimetrodon: Similar to the dinosaur Spinosaurus, these predators possessed sails on their back which scientists believe could have served a variety of purposes including temperature regulation, sexual display or even camouflage.

Dinogorgon: With fossils found in Tanzania and South Africa, the Dinogorgon was a small carnivore of the late Permian Period. With a length of roughly six-and-a-half feet, this predator preyed on small reptiles.

Edaphosaurus: Despite resembling the predatory Dimetrodon with a large spinal sail, Edaphosaurus was actually a large herbivore of the early Permian Period.

Estemmenosuchus: With its name translating to “crowned crocodile” in Greek, this omnivorous genus from the middle Permian Period is most noted for the horn-like display on its skull.

Moschops: Measuring about 6-feet tall and 9-feet long, Moschops is an example of an early mammal-like reptile from the Permian Period. Remains of the herbivorous Moschops have been found in South Africa.

Titanophoneus: From the middle Permian Period, not much is known about this large and mysterious carnivore, because so few fossil specimens have been found.

* **Artistic Renditions**

A dozen illustrations from award-winning paleo-artist Julius Csotonyi bring the Permian Period to life and give guests a glimpse at what life was like before the dinosaurs.

* **Fossilized Skeletons**

Get a feel for the Permian Period with real fossils and skeletons that guests can observe and touch.

* **Touch-Screen Games**

Children and adults can test their knowledge about the Permian Period at interactive game stations.