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News Release

Minnesota Children's Museum Gives Earth World Gallery a Halloween Makeover

(ST. PAUL, MN) – As children eagerly plan this year's Halloween costume, one of Minnesota Children's Museum's permanent galleries is gearing up for a Halloween makeover of its own. From October 20 – November 1, the Museum's *Earth World* gallery will be transformed into *Spooky Woods*, a not-so-scary Halloween experience created especially for preschoolers and early elementary-aged children.

Visitors begin the *Spooky Woods* journey gathered around a "campfire" in a nighttime forest listening to a child-friendly Halloween story before entering the gallery through a misty doorway and picking one of two hair-raising paths.

During their trip through *Spooky Woods*, children wear reflective costumes and take in the scenery of a forest landscape at night. Children also can walk across a mushy bog, climb through a spider web tunnel, scramble through the woodchuck den in a glow-in-dark costume, and make their way through the black-lit anthill maze. *Spooky Woods* visitors will also get an up-close look at creepy crawlers like rats, cockroaches and snakes.

Entrance to *Spooky Woods* is free with Museum admission, but entrances to the gallery are timed. New journeys begin every 15 minutes from 9:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. Space for each timed entrance is limited, but you can reserve your preferred time slot by paying \$1 per visitor.

For more information, or to reserve your spot online, visit MCM.org.

MINNESOTA CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Minnesota Children's Museum is a non-profit community educational organization committed to smart play: sparking children's learning through play. Infants ages six months through children age 10 discover their world through hands-on exhibits in five permanent galleries: ***Our World*** connects children to people and places in their community as they role play "grown-ups" in a child-size environment; ***World Works*** encourages creativity and problem-solving through investigation and experimentation; ***Earth World*** immerses children in lifelike Minnesota habitats to nurture an understanding of the natural world; ***Habitot***[®] enables infants and toddlers to safely explore four developmentally designed learning landscapes; and ***Rooftop ArtPark*** brings nature and art together in an outdoor gallery on the Museum's fourth floor. Two special galleries offer exciting traveling exhibits from around the world. Fun drop-in programs such as Story Time and Big Fun! take place daily. Kid Spark, the Museum store, is located in the first floor lobby. Minnesota Children's Museum has been providing children and adults with a fun, educational environment since 1981.

The Museum is located at Seventh and Wabasha streets in downtown St. Paul. For 24-hour information, visit www.MCM.org or call 651-225-6000.