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## **Festival of Illumination World of Lights at Southwick's Zoo**

### **Announce New Dates for Grand Opening Weekend, now September 23, 24, 25 & 26**

Southwick's Zoo in Mendon, Massachusetts, a New England favorite destination for over 55 years, considers guest experience their top priority; therefore, after careful consideration and due to circumstances beyond their control, the much-anticipated Grand Opening of the Festival of Illumination World of Lights has been rescheduled to September 23, 24, 25 and 26 – 5:30pm to 10:00pm each evening.

Southwick's Zoo has partnered with the award-winning Zigong Lantern Group working together over the past two years to create this premium, one of a kind Chinese lantern showcase. In addition to the breathtaking lantern exhibits, guests of the Grand Opening Weekend will experience live entertainment including Chinese Acrobats, Asian Night Market, Street Performers, Specialty Foods and more.

From late September to January 2nd, 2022, Southwick's Zoo will be illuminated by breathtaking custom-built exhibits consisting of hundreds of Chinese lanterns meticulously handcrafted from silk, steel, and environmentally friendly LED lights. Guests will travel the globe through the incredible artistry of handcrafted Chinese Lanterns and be immersed in the magical world of imagination and illumination, visiting the African Savannahs, the Amazon rainforest, the Great Barrier Reef, as well as many beautiful and fascinating regions in between. Beginning on November 26<sup>th</sup> the experience becomes a drive thru, with the addition of Southwick's Zoo's traditional Winter Wonderland holiday lights as well as holiday themed Chinese Lanterns. Santa will also be visiting at his enchanted Village.

The Festival of Illumination World of Lights is an evening event, 5:30pm -10:00pm, Wednesday through Sunday, September 23 to January 2, 2022. Advance ticket purchase is recommended for this must-see experience! More information please visit [www.festivalofillumination.com](http://www.festivalofillumination.com)



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Southwick's Zoo is a privately-owned zoo located at 2 Southwick Street in Mendon, MA and has been a favorite New England destination for over 50 years. The zoo is home to over 850 animals, featuring more than 160 varied species, many of which are endangered. Southwick's Zoo's mission is to provide an extensive zoological collection and educational facility for their visitors, offering exciting family fun and entertainment for guests of all ages. [www.southwickszoo.com](http://www.southwickszoo.com)