

# HATTIESBURG ZOO

## For Immediate Release

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### **HATTIESBURG ZOO BEGINS EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM ‘TORTOISE AND THE HAIR’ FOR FALL 2017**

**HATTIESBURG (August 17, 2017)** — “Tortoise and the Hair” program is Hattiesburg Zoo’s free outreach program in which the Zoo brings animals to Pinebelt schools to provide hands-on experience and education about the animal kingdom.

Each semester the Zoo, via its ZooMobile, brings an onsite learning adventure to area schools featuring live animals and knowledgeable educators. This semester’s theme focuses on the difference between turtles and tortoises, along with how mammals have adapted different uses for hair. Animals include three of the following: gopher tortoise, box turtle, hedgehog, or chinchilla.

“We are delighted to offer another semester of outreach to area schools and groups. This program is a favorite for the Zoo’s educators because it allows us to go into the community and educate students in a smaller setting. ‘Tortoise and the Hair’ was a huge hit previously, so we are eager for another successful semester,” said Jeremy Cumpton, Hattiesburg Zoo education manager.

The presentations last approximately thirty minutes but can be tailored to fit a school or classroom’s schedule. The curriculum provided is based on the Mississippi Department of Education’s Life Science Competencies.

*For additional information, call the Hattiesburg Zoo at 601.545.4576 or visit the Zoo online at [HattiesburgZoo.com](http://HattiesburgZoo.com) or on Facebook. Regular admission is \$5 with children under two getting in for free. The Hattiesburg Zoo is a Hattiesburg Convention Commission Facility, in partnership with the City of Hattiesburg. Since 1991, the Hattiesburg Convention Commission has been developing and operating tourism-related facilities for the Hattiesburg area.*

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