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Date: January 20, 2012  
For Immediate Release

## **Discover the Secret Lives and Hidden Habitats of Foxes and other Forest Animals**

*“Animal Secrets” exhibit January 28 – May 6, 2012*

**Jackson, Miss.** – Where does a chipmunk sleep? What does an eagle feed its young? How do mother bats find their babies in a cave? Between January 28 and May 6, 2012 visitors to the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science will learn the answers to these questions and more in *Animal Secrets*, a new exhibit in which visitors discover the secret lives and hidden habitats of forest animals.

*“Animal Secrets* builds on children’s natural curiosity about the world around them and helps foster a sense of wonder about nature,” said Chris Zachow, president of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation board of directors. “The exhibit is designed to encourage family learning and to help young children develop science skills through play and exploration. The exhibit also offers parents tips on how to encourage their children’s interest in science.”

*Animal Secrets* is especially designed for children ages 3 through 8, preschool to third grade school groups, and has English and Spanish text panels. In *Animal Secrets*, visitors discover nature from an animal’s point of view using imaginative role-play and hands-on activities as they explore five naturalistic environments: a stream, meadow, woodland, cave, and naturalists’ tent. Visitors see the world from an eagle’s nest, pretend to be a chipmunk gathering food for the winter, and help a raccoon family escape from a hungry fox. Then, visitors can play the role of a naturalist by examining tracks, skulls, fur, bones and other specimens.

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**About the Exhibit:** *Animal Secrets* was produced and is toured by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, Portland, Oregon. The exhibit was made possible with funds provided by the National Science Foundation (NSF). Additional support provided by the Collins Foundation and Meyer Memorial Trust. The exhibit is sponsored locally by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation, an anonymous sponsor, Chisholm Foundation, Feild Cooperative Associates, Inc., Paul Benton, Plum Creek, Sanderson Farms, Trustmark Bank, Wheeler and Ashley Parker, Chris and Steve Zachow, Halla Jo Ellis, and Sean Wesley Ellis.

**About the Museum:** The museum is located at 2148 Riverside Drive in Jackson. Call 601.576.6000 or visit <http://www.msnaturalscience.org> for directions, parking and details about this event and other programs offered by the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, which is a part of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The Mississippi Museum of Natural Science is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). **Museum Hours:** M-F: 8am - 5pm; SAT: 9am - 5pm; SUN: 1pm -5pm. **Admission:** \$6 adults; \$4 children ages 3-18; \$5 senior citizens (60+); free for children under 3; free for Museum Members; school teachers with classes: call for group information. **Prices and schedule subject to change.**

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