Pokémon GO Events Scheduled at OU Museums July 14

NORMAN, OKLAHOMA — Calling all Pokémon trainers! Norman’s art and natural history museums have teamed up to offer an evening of monster hunting on the University of Oklahoma campus for Pokémon GO app users 5 to 9 p.m. Thursday, July 14.

Pokémon and Popsicles begins at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, where visitors may purchase Pokémon-themed popsicles by Campus Corner shop Epic Pops and start hunting for the elusive creatures in and outside of the museum, where dozens of Pokéstops, gyms, and lures for attracting hard-to-find Pokémons await.

Visitors are encouraged to explore both North and South Ovals in search of Pokémon creatures and items while making their way to the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, which will offer special evening hours with complimentary admission.

“The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is right on the edge of a hub of Pokémon activity, all within walking distance,” said Michael Bendure, director of communication. “Pokémon seem to like hiding in and around cultural institutions like museums, so we’re excited about inviting the community to hunt for these fun creatures while enjoying our exhibitions and galleries.”

Pokémon GO is a free app released less than a week ago that puts the power of hunting and capturing Pokémon creatures in the hands of phone users. The app is garnering international attention due to its current popularity for players of all
ages. By using the phone’s built-in GPS, the app uses a real-time map that reveals hidden Pokémon and Pokéstops, which serve as places to load up on Pokéballs and other in-game items. Certain buildings and landmarks serve as “gyms,” where users can train and fight Pokémon.

“The North Oval alone currently includes more than two dozen unique Pokéstops, many with Pokémon lures, plus three gyms,” Bendure said. “Three public sculptures around the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art are Pokéstops, and the top Pokémon I’ve found have been inside the museum this week. Combined with the South Oval and Sam Noble Museum, the university may be the largest concentration of Pokémon activity in the community.”

The Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art is located in the OU Arts District on the corner of Elm Avenue and Boyd Street, at 555 Elm Ave., on the OU Norman campus. Admission to the museum is complimentary to all visitors, thanks to a generous gift from the OU Athletics Department. The museum is closed on Mondays. Information and accommodations on the basis of disability are available by calling (405) 325-4938.