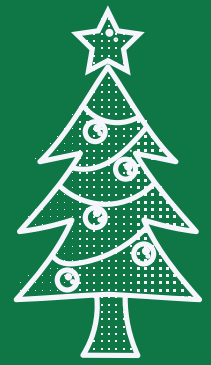




FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS TREE CONTEST



The Northwoods Winter Wonderland **Festival of Lights Tree Contest** involves the display of live Christmas trees by the Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce Building along Highway 51. **Our goal is 10 beautifully decorated trees and lots of new Christmas decor.** In the effort to promote community, each tree will be sponsored by a local corporation, non-profit/organization, or family, and can be decorated by its sponsor or another organization designated by the sponsor.

Sponsoring a tree is a great way to market your business, boost employee morale, and just be creative. **Tree sponsorships are available for \$50 which offsets the costs of the tree, durable stand, and maintenance.** If you don't have time to decorate a tree, please be a tree sponsor and we'll find a worthy non-profit organization or Family to beautifully decorate it for you. Both your name and the decorating organization are displayed on an attractive sign that is placed beside the tree.

All entrants must complete the online registration or the print form, both available on our website. If your organization would like to be considered as a non-profit decorator, please submit the form to get on the waiting list for a sponsored tree. These trees are subject to availability, but we will do our best to accommodate all requests.

Trees will be displayed on Hwy 51 in front of the Mercer Chamber building, and we hope to keep the Trees displayed until December 27th. (weather may vary this date)

Decorations and lights MAY NOT be removed before December 27th. (unless otherwise notified or requested)

Early removal violates our rules and ruins the display for family members, tourists, and guests who cannot come to town before Christmas Day. DO NOT TAKE DOWN YOUR TREE EARLY! Take down dates are December 27-31, 2024. Any decorations not removed within that time will become the property of the Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce to keep at their discretion. If other arrangements need to be made, please contact the Mercer Chamber.

Trees will be judged by the public. Awards are given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place best decorated.

Whether your tree is a work of art or something to promote your company, this is your opportunity to help the Mercer Chamber create a vibrant and exciting Mercer Area & Northwoods Winter Wonderland Event for this Christmas season.

The Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization and all funds raised cover the costs to execute this Winter Wonderland Event. Any proceeds will be invested in all other 2025 events and projects hosted by the Mercer Area Chamber of Commerce.



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Decorating Guidelines & Requirement (Must Read)

Decorate your tree anytime **Monday December 2nd thru December 6th, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.**

Your assigned tree will have a sponsor sign displayed beside it. Look for your name. Please do not move signs around. If you do not see your sign please call Melissa at 715.476.2389 and we'll get it fixed.

The sponsor/decorator provides all lights and decorations.

The live Spruce Christmas trees will be approximately 6-8ft in height.

Sponsor signage will be provided for you.

A limited amount of power is available- This is based on a first come first serve basis. Please select the "need electricity box" on the application to reserve it - if no more power is available or you would prefer, please use battery powered lights for your tree.

You can include a tree skirt of some kind and secure it to the ground. **Also make sure that the tree skirt leaves room in the center for the watering of your tree or adjustments of your trees.** Your tree skirt doesn't have to be fancy; it adds to the ambiance of the displayed trees and covers cords but is not required.

Please use decorations that can withstand the wind and rain. Laminate paper decorations.

We suggest that you spray any fabric/material with Scotch Guard to prevent mildew and keep them looking good.

Small plastic zip ties, pipe cleaners, string, or other ties should be used to secure your decorations.

If you plan to spray paint or snow on your tree, please bring a plastic drop cloth or other covering for the grass. Be careful that the wind doesn't carry it to neighboring trees.

While you are decorating, please watch small children as they can trip and fall on cords, wires, and rebar stakes, we want to insure everyone's safety. Adults should exercise care, too!

The Mercer Area Chamber will check all trees periodically; **however, it is recommended that you assign someone to check your tree, as well.** Please remember that trees will be out in the elements for roughly 30 days and wind, rain, snow, and other weather may cause ornaments to fall.

The display is monitored regularly by Mercer Area Chamber Staff. However, we cannot be responsible for any stolen or missing ornaments or decorations. Hopefully, that will not be a problem.

Voting for the best decorated tree will take place in person at the Mercer Chamber with ballots in our building, online via social media (Facebook Poll) and we will display photos of the trees at the Christmas Carnival at Santa's Workshop for Day of live voting.

This is a contest for bragging rights and to spread holiday cheer! We can't wait to see what you decorate!

Again, please remember that tree decorations and lights should stay decorated and lit through December 27th.

Remember: Decorations and lights may be removed between December 27th-31st. NOT BEFORE!

Any decorations and lights that remain on trees as of January 1, 2024, become the property of the Mercer Area Chamber.