



We are thrilled to share this application for Wintree Wonderland's Festive Forest in 2026! Wintree Wonderland has transitioned to leadership by a new not-for-profit corporation, allowing greater autonomy and collaboration with holiday partners. White Oaks Mall will continue as the location, allowing space for all the activities. This includes:

- Our Festive Forest of Trees
- Santa's Workshop Make-It/Take-It, benefiting charitable organizations
- Cookies & Cocoa, a fundraising opportunity for school Boosters and Clubs
- North Pole 'elfie Station for fun social media posts and Christmas cards
- Holiday Window Murals, created by High School and Junior High Art Classes

In addition, Wintree Wonderland partners with:

- Mini O'Bierne Crisis Nursery's Holiday Store, a shopping experience for children;
- The A.L. Express Train offers rides throughout the Mall and hosts the Polar Express Pajama Party;
- White Oaks Mall brings our Nationally Acclaimed Santa Claus, located in Center Court for premium photos and memories. The Mall also hosts Caring Santa for children with special needs and Pet Night.

No admission will be charged to Wintree Wonderland so all families can enjoy the festivities.

We are so grateful to everyone who participated in 2025; the Schools and Scouts trees were a popular attraction! We hope that you will help us create new magic in 2026! Decorating a tree as a class or scout troop can be a great lesson in cooperation and teach arts and crafts skills. Unlike the trees decorated by designers and organizations, Schools and Scouts trees must feature handmade decorations.

There is no participation fee and sponsors are not required. Trees will not be provided so you may choose to use any style, shape or color of tree with any type, color or combination of color lights. Trees do not need to be new, it's quite likely you have a parent that has one in storage they would let you use, or you may find an inexpensive one on Marketplace. The only limitation is the tree must be at least 6 feet tall and no more than 10 feet tall. At the end of the season, you can retrieve your tree and use it next year! Organizations will be acknowledged with signage at their tree. Schools and Scouts trees will be grouped together.

Applications will be accepted until October 30th. Please make certain to complete the application in its entirety so we can determine appropriate tree placement. Applications will be reviewed to ensure they meet the Guidelines below.

Awards

School and Scouts Trees will be eligible for a People's Choice Award. This tree will be selected by "votes" cast throughout the event and announced at the end of the Season.

Planning Your Decorated Item

You are encouraged to use a theme, whether traditional or non-traditional, and create a title for your item based on the theme. A theme can be established by repeating elements such as color, subject, shape, or size of decorations. All themes should be appropriate to display in a public setting.

Decorating Guidelines

1. Trees must be at least 6 feet tall and no more than 10 feet tall.
2. Trees must be artificial and include lights. Lights MUST OPERATE. Please use lights that are independent of each other so that if one burns out, the rest stay on. There is no need for a timer as power will be shut off at the closing.
3. Decorations must be handmade. Fillers, such as flowers, picks, and bows are acceptable.
4. All decorations (ornaments, picks, flowers, etc.) should be securely attached preferably with wire, zip ties or glue. Avoid using fragile ornaments.
5. All sides of the tree must be decorated, including the back. A variety of materials can be used to fill empty spaces and add shape, including ribbon and bows, tulle or netting, silk flowers, etc.
6. Trees must have a skirt or other appropriate base covering. To give trees a finished look, please coordinate the tree topper, skirt and trim.
7. Do not decorate your tree to promote political or controversial views. If any tree is considered controversial or in poor taste, it will be removed.
8. Do not decorate your item with advertising paraphernalia or business signage. If the Designer is a business, it will be acknowledged on signage along with the Sponsor (if applicable).
9. Live or perishable material (plants, flowers, food) cannot be used for decoration.
10. **All trees will be reviewed during Set-up and at completion. If your tree does not meet these standards and guidelines, or is deemed inappropriate, you must make adjustments or your submission will be rejected.**

Setup & Removal

Locations of trees will be determined by Wintree Wonderland NFP based on information in your application.

Set-up will begin on Sunday, November 1st and all trees must be completed by 6:00, Tuesday, November 10th. Available set-up times, the removal schedule, and additional information will be provided with your confirmation. Trees must remain in place through Saturday, December 26th. If you would like to leave your tree for Wintree Wonderland to use in the future, please indicate so on your application.

For questions, contact: WintreeWonderland@gmail.com

We have included photos of some of the 2025 trees for inspiration!



WINTREE WONDERLAND

2026 School and Scouts Application

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT!

School and Scouts applications must be received by October 30, 2026. Space is limited; if entries exceed the amount of space available, application review and selection will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

E-Mailed applications are preferred. Please send to: WintreeWonderland@gmail.com . If mailed, please send to:

Wintree Wonderland Designer Application

671 - 1550th Street

Lincoln, IL 62656

Contact Person(s): _____

School or Scout Group: _____ Class (if applicable): _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Additional Contact Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Theme/Title of your tree (this will be included on signage): _____

Organization Name as it should appear on signage: _____

Sponsor (if applicable) as it should appear on signage: _____

Tree Height: _____ Tree Width: _____ Tree Color: _____ Color(s) of Lights: _____

Colors utilized in decorations: _____

Please describe the planned décor for your tree: _____

☐ Yes, I will retrieve my tree at the end of the event.

☐ Yes, I will donate my tree to Wintree Wonderland which may be utilized in future events or for charitable purposes.

I acknowledge that I have read and will adhere to all Designer Guidelines for the 2026 Wintree Wonderland.

I agree that if I am unable to fulfill my designer obligation, I will let Wintree Wonderland know as soon as possible so that another designer can be secured for the space.

I understand that in the event that any or all of the Wintree Wonderland events do not take place, I, as the designer shall not be entitled to any refund of costs incurred.

Signature: _____ Date: _____