

Nights of Lights at Mounds State Park

Dear Nights of Lights Decorator:

Thank you for participating in another year of holiday merriment and festivities at Mounds State Park. Keep in mind the following important information, rules, and tips as you decorate your campsite and throughout the event.

Event Information

- The light show will begin the evening of Friday, December 1, 2023. The gates will open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in December from 6:00 – 9:30 p.m.
- You will be notified of your campsite assignment by October 31, 2023 or earlier.
- You may decorate your site any time between November 18, 2023 and November 26, 2023 during park hours (dawn until dusk).
- We will advertise the event through several formats including local newspapers, DNR websites, the Friends of Mounds website and Facebook page, park billboards, and handouts.
- A charge will be taken at the camp store, and all proceeds will go to the Friends of Mounds State Park for their many projects at the park. The charge is \$10 per vehicle (cash or credit card).
- Besides the Nights of Lights, there will be other events planned throughout December to celebrate the festivities of the season.
- Spectators will vote for their top three favorite displays via the Friends of Mounds website, friendsofmounds.org. The winners will be notified via email, as well as posted to the Friends of Mounds Facebook page and website.
- Decorator certificates for your participation will be delivered in February 2024.
- Be sure to encourage friends and family to visit to see your hard work!

Rules and Guidelines

- Decorations and lights for your site should be related to Christmas, winter, or other holidays celebrated in December. The decorations and theme should be appropriate for all ages, and include no profanity, no political messaging, no adult themes such as alcohol, intoxicants or tobacco/smoking related items, and no inappropriate images. If there are questions regarding your campsite content, please reach out to the contacts listed below.
- **This is a family event and should be considerate towards adults and children of all ages.**
- Any advertisement signage related to your business, church, organization, etc. should not exceed 15% of your overall display
- We encourage you to decorate *at least 2/3* of your campsite to maximize the visitors

viewing experience!

- Friends of Mounds will be reviewing all campsites and will have final determination whether or not a campsite needs to be modified to stay with the Nights of Lights Committee and DNR guidelines.
- **Please use extension cords, light displays, and other electrical decorations that are outdoor rated.** Mounds State Park and The Friends of Mounds State Park will not be responsible for any damage to equipment that is not related or designed for outdoor use.
- Campsites have electrical pedestals located at the back of each site. The Friends of Mounds will supply a timer device to turn the lights on and off each evening. We will not put the timer on until November 29, 2023. There are two plugs on each timer; therefore, for one site you will have only two plug-ins.
- When setting up, you may use the electrical boxes to test your lights but **unplug your display before you leave.** We will plug them in when we attach the timer.
- **Inflatables are not allowed** due to the potential of damage from wind and weather and being scattered around the campground.
- Inspection to the sites will be made before the start of each night of the event runs. The Friends of Mounds volunteers will address minor problems; however, sites in need of major repair will not be turned on if safety is a concern. You will be notified if there are major issues. **Please provide the number of a reliable contact.**
- We recommend that you do a check of your site after a major weather event, as damage may have occurred. It would be greatly appreciated if you would also take the opportunity to check your site once a week up to 2 hours or earlier before the Nights of Lights opening at 6:00 pm Friday nights.
- Please use non-penetrating anchors (zip ties, bungees cords, etc.) if utilizing the trees on your selected site. No permanent damage should be made to any trees, shrubs, fire pit rings, picnic tables or blacktop pads on your campsite.
- The Friends of Mounds State Park and Mounds State Park are not responsible for anything that might be stolen or damaged.
- You may begin removing your decoration any time after January 1, 2024. Please have everything removed by January 13, 2024, any and all items left at the campsite will be considered a donation to the Friends of Mounds State Park and considered their property.

Thank you for supporting and participating in Nights of Lights! The Nights of Lights is becoming a holiday tradition for residents of Anderson and surrounding areas, and helps the Friends of Mounds State Park support our wonderful state park. We look forward to working with you for many years to come!

Contacts:

- Ray Meyer, Nights of Lights Chair/Logistics Coordinator, 765-208-5126
- Scott Crossley, Mounds State Park, Park Manager, 765-642-6627
- Email: NightsOfLights.fomst@gmail.com