

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, November 28, 2025. The gates will open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in December from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- You will be notified of your campsite assignment by October 31, 2025 or earlier.
- You may decorate your site any time November 15 - November 25, 2025 during park hours (dawn until dusk).
- We will advertise the event through several formats such as local newspapers, DNR website, Mounds State Park Facebook, Friends of Mounds State Park website and Facebook/Instagram, radio, and handouts.
- A charge of \$10 per vehicle 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 can be paid by cash or credit card.
- In addition to the Nights of Lights, there will be other events planned throughout December to celebrate the festivities of the season. Make sure you follow the Friends of Mounds and Mounds State Park social media!
- Spectators will vote for their top three favorite displays via the Friends of Mounds website (www.friendsofmounds.org). The winners will be notified via email, as well as posted to the Friends of Mounds Facebook page.
- 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.
- **This is a family event and should be considerate of adults and children of all ages.** This means that the decorations and themes should be appropriate for all ages and cannot include profanity, political messaging, or adult themes such as alcohol, drugs, tobacco/smoking, or inappropriate images. If there are questions regarding your campsite content, please reach out to the contacts listed below.
- Any advertisement signage related to your business, church, organization, etc is encouraged, but should not exceed 15% of your overall display.
- We encourage you to decorate at least 2/3 of your campsite to maximize the 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 within 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 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 26, 2025. 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 for damage from wind and weather and being scattered around the campground.
- Inspection to the sites will be done prior to the start of the event each night. 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 on your application.**
- 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 the site could be checked once each week. This should be completed at least 2 hours prior to the Nights of Lights opening at 6:00 pm on 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 done 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 December 28, 2025 when the last event closes. Please have everything removed by January 10, 2025. All items left at the campsite after this date will be considered a donation to the Friends of Mounds State Park.

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!

*The Friends of Mounds State Park;
Nights of Lights Committee*

Contacts:

- Email: NightsOfLights.fomsp@gmail.com
- Patrick Haulter, Mounds State Park, Park Manager, 812-406-5751