

# Nights of Lights at Mounds State Park

## Dear Nights of Lights Decorator:

Thank you for participating in the second 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 2, 2022. The gates will open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in December and January 1, 2023 from 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm.
- ❄ You will be notified of your campsite assignment by October 2, 2022, or earlier.
- ❄ You may decorate your site any time between **November 19, 2022** and **November 27, 2022** during park hours (dawn until dusk).
- ❄ We will advertise the event through several formats including local newspapers, DNR websites, the Friends of Mounds website, The Friends of Mounds 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 \$5 per vehicle for 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](http://friendsofmounds.org). The winners will be notified via email, posted to the Friends of Mounds Facebook page and our website.
- ❄ Decorator certificates for your participation will be delivered in February 2023.
- ❄ Be sure to encourage friends and family to visit to see your hard work!

### Rules

- ❄ 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. No profanity. No political messaging. No adult themes such as alcohol, intoxicants or tobacco/smoking related items, or inappropriate images. If there are questions regarding your campsite content, please reach out to 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 the 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 ready.** Mounds State Park and The Friends of Mounds State Park will not be responsible for any damage to equipment that is not rated 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 day. We will not put the timers on until November 27, 2022. 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 displays 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. In 2021, wind was a serious issue so **no inflatables** of any size or type should be used.

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- ❄ Inspections to the sites will be made before the start of each night 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 will more than likely have occurred. It would be greatly appreciated if you would also take the opportunity to check your site once a week before 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 made to any trees, shrubs, fire pit rings, picnic tables or blacktop pads on your campsite.
- ❄ The Friend of Mounds State Park and Mounds State Park are not responsible for anything that might be stolen or damaged.
- ❄ You may begin removing your decorations any time after January 2, 2023. Please have everything removed by January 15, 2023. *If prior notification or arrangements are not made by January 15, 2023, any and all items left at the campsite will be considered a donation to the Friends of Mounds State Park and considered their property.*

## Tips and Tricks

- ❄ **New for 2022!!** Friends of Mounds will be holding Decorator workshops over the summer to assist with decorating tips and tricks and answer any questions you may have regarding appropriate decorating of the campsites. Videos will be created and posted for those that cannot attend.
- ❄ Indiana experiences many types of precipitation and rapid temperature variations throughout December. Please tape any unused plug-ins on your lights/decorations to guard against water entering the socket. Electrical tape works best. For 2021, we found that moisture was a serious problem with many of the displays. Please ensure that **all plugs are 6-8" off the ground.**
- ❄ Substantial ground anchors are strongly recommended due to inclement weather and wind (garden stakes, rebar, etc).

We will be posting this document on our website, [friendsofmounds.org](http://friendsofmounds.org). If there are any questions, please reach out to us via one of the methods below:

- Email: [events.friendsofmounds@gmail.com](mailto:events.friendsofmounds@gmail.com)
- Facebook page: Friends of Mounds State Park
- Calling the park office at (765) 642-6627
- Calling our Decorator Coordinator Barb Smith at (765) 620-3871

**Thank you** for your support and participation in our event and helping to grow the Nights of Lights into a holiday tradition for the residents of Anderson and surrounding areas for many years to come!

Nights of Lights Committee  
Friends of Mounds State Park  
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and

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