NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
Celebrating 100 Years

THE ELLIPSE, PRESIDENT'S PARK | WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022
’Tis the season for more comfort, more joy, more lights. Happy holidays.
PROGRAM

WELCOME TO PRESIDENT’S PARK!


AS YOU ENJOY TONIGHT’S FESTIVITIES, REMEMBER YOUR NATIONAL PARKS ARE WONDERFUL PLACES TO VISIT WITH YOUR FAMILY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

TO PLAN YOUR NEXT VISIT, GO TO NPS.GOV

LL COOL J, Host

Holiday Music

“The President’s Own”
U.S. Marine Band

Greetings

Charles F. Sams III, Director
National Park Service

Will Shafroth, President and CEO
National Park Foundation

The Honorable Deb Haaland
Secretary of the Interior

Lighting of the
National Christmas Tree
and Christmas Message

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
and Dr. Jill Biden

Guest Performers (in alphabetical order)

Yolanda Adams
Ariana DeBose
Gloria Estefan and Family

Andy Grammer
Joss Stone
Shania Twain
TONIGHT’S PERFORMERS

LL COOL J
Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, two-time GRAMMY® Award-winning Hip-Hop icon, Kennedy Center Honoree, recording artist, actor, author, NAACP Image Award winner, entrepreneur, philanthropist, and founder and CEO of Rock The Bells, LL COOL J has created one of the most multifaceted careers and brands in entertainment and continues to display his wide range of talents with every project. Three decades after he first burst onto the scene, LL COOL J continues his vibrant, trailblazing career.

YOLANDA ADAMS
Yolanda Adams triumphantly carries the torch for contemporary gospel and inspirational music. With 13 releases, Yolanda has earned a multitude of accolades including four Grammy Awards. Not only is Yolanda a phenomenal vocalist, she is also an author, designer, record company executive, actor, and mother. She has shocked many, playing the role of Denita Jordan in “Kingdom Business” on BET.

ARIANA DEBOSE
Ariana DeBose is an award-winning actress known for her varying roles both onstage and in film and television. DeBose is best known for her groundbreaking performance in Steven Spielberg’s 2021 reimagining of “West Side Story,” for which she received an Academy Award, in addition to BAFTA, Critics Choice, and SAG Awards for her star turning role as Anita. Variety called her “a radiant force of nature.” In winning her Oscar, she became the first openly queer Afro Latina to win an Academy Award.
GLORIA ESTEFAN AND FAMILY
International superstar Gloria Estefan is a GRAMMY® award-winning singer, actress, songwriter, author of two New York Times best-selling children’s books, philanthropist, and humanitarian. She is considered the most successful Latin crossover artist in music history, per Billboard Magazine. Tonight, she is joined by her daughter Emily, a GRAMMY®-nominated musician and EMMY®-nominated co-host of the Facebook Watch show “Red Table Talk: The Estefans,” and 10-year-old grandson Sasha Estefan-Coppola.

ANDY GRAMMER
Multi-platinum artist Andy Grammer continues to energize, empower, and bring together audiences around the world with his uplifting and honest pop anthems. His observations and affirmations pick people back up when they need it, affirm their potential, and encourage them to keep going. This year Grammer was even named the #1 “Happy” Streaming artist globally. His catalog includes the quadruple-platinum single “Honey, I’m Good,” and platinum singles “Keep Your Head Up,” “Fine By Me,” and “Don’t Give Up On Me.”

JOSS STONE
Joss Stone is a five-time GRAMMY®-nominated artist who has sold 15 million records worldwide, and landed four of her eight albums in the Billboard Top 10. She is considered one of the best-selling soul artists of the 2000s, and one of the best-selling British artists of her time. She is Christmas obsessed, and still marvels over the pageantry of her family’s festive holiday rituals. Lovingly befitting, Joss’s first-ever Christmas album is named after her dad’s seasonal salutation, “Merry Christmas, Love.”
SHANIA TWAIN
Global superstar, celebrated songwriter and style icon Shania Twain is a five-time GRAMMY® winner and one of music and fashion’s most renowned trailblazers. With five albums released and more than 100 million albums sold worldwide, Twain remains the top-selling female country pop artist of all time. Her hits include “Any Man of Mine,” “That Don’t Impress Me Much,” “You’re Still the One” and “Man! I Feel Like A Woman!” She will appear as Mrs. Potts in “Beauty and the Beast: A 30th Celebration” on December 15 on ABC.

“THE PRESIDENT’S OWN” U.S. MARINE BAND
“The President’s Own” United States Marine Band’s mission is to perform for the President of the United States and the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Founded in 1798 by an Act of Congress signed by President John Adams, the Marine Band is America’s oldest continuously active professional musical organization. Over its nearly 225-year history, “The President’s Own” has witnessed and performed for many important moments in the life of our nation, including the first lighting of the National Christmas Tree.

PRE-SHOW ENTERTAINMENT
Annie Yu, WUSA9 and Chester Lampkin, WUSA9, Co-hosts
National Park Service Ranger Kelli Jones
Mt. Calvary Catholic Church Choir, Forestville, Md.

Additional Performances:
Clear Harmonies Carolers, Silver Spring, Md.
Culpeper Co. H.S. Acapella Choirs, Culpeper, Va.
Paul Belanger / Magical Toy Soldier, Orlando, Fla.
Voices in Praise, Dunkirk, Md.
Washington Commanders Brass Quintet, Landover, Md.
Washington Mennonite Chorus, Washington, D.C.
For 60 years, the GE Lighting business has been proud to design and provide lighting for the National Christmas Tree – for the first 57 years as part of General Electric, and the past three years as part of Savant Systems, Inc. Now known as GE Lighting, a Savant company, the business is again honored to partner with the National Park Foundation to help this year’s tree shine bright.

This year’s design, created specifically for the 100th lighting of the National Christmas Tree, includes strings of white lights along with strands of gold string lights, white sparkling twinkle spheres and white Bethlehem stars interspersed throughout. For daytime interest, the tree is accented with gold holographic diamond shapes for daytime glitter. Historical star tree toppers coupled with star ornaments from tree designs of years past embellish the base of the tree. A simple, yet elegant star topper finishes off the design.

Using the latest in LED holiday lighting products, this is the 14th consecutive year that GE LED lights, many of them ENERGY STAR® certified, have been used to light the National Christmas Tree. These lights use nearly 80% less energy and are a lighter weight option, helping to conserve energy and preserve the living tree.

The National Christmas Tree site is free to visit and will be open to the public Dec. 2, 2022, through Jan. 1, 2023. Hours are 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, and 10 a.m. – 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Lights on the National Christmas Tree and the 58 smaller trees that surround the tree turn on around sunset each evening.

Learn more about the history of this American tradition and see lighting designs from past years at thenationaltree.org.
Accompanied by the Marine Band, President Calvin Coolidge lights the very first National Christmas Tree, a 38-foot-tall Balsam fir from his home state of Vermont, on the Ellipse on Christmas Eve.

Two Fraser firs were planted on the east and west sides of the Andrew Jackson statue in Lafayette Park, in hopes they would be used as the National Christmas Tree in alternate years.

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (right) joined President Franklin Roosevelt for the lighting ceremony in 1941, just days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II.

Organizers introduced a three-week Christmas “Pageant of Peace,” and “Pathway of Peace,” lined by smaller decorated trees representing each of the states, territories, and District of Columbia.
The lighting ceremony was postponed while the nation mourned the death of President Kennedy. GE designed the lighting and decorations for the National Christmas Tree for the first time.

The Washington Monument and a brilliant sunset frame the National Christmas Tree. During the holiday season, the National Christmas Tree is a popular subject for photographers.

For the second time, LED lighting is incorporated into the decorations of the National Christmas Tree. This year, the majority of the display uses LEDs and is nearly 50 percent more energy efficient.

Helping to kick off the National Park Service Centennial in 2016, the decorations celebrate the occasion with sparkling gold ribbon and silvery white stars and lights.

Learn more about the history of the National Christmas Tree at thenationaltree.org.
MORE THAN 2,600 STUDENTS FROM EACH STATE, TERRITORY, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AS WELL AS BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY SCHOOLS, HAVE GIVEN OF THEIR TIME AND TALENTS TO DESIGN AND CREATE ORNAMENTS REPRESENTING THEIR HOME STATE OR TERRITORY.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY YOUR STROLL THROUGH OUR GREAT AND DIVERSE COUNTRY, REFLECTED IN THE ARRAY OF DESIGNS PRESENTED HERE IN THE AMERICA CELEBRATES DISPLAY.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE U.S. DEPT. OF EDUCATION FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THE PROGRAM.

Alabama
Barton Academy for Advanced World Studies

Alaska
Effie Kokrine Charter School

American Samoa
Nu’uuli Vocational Technical H.S.

Arizona
San Luis High School

Arkansas
Little Rock West H.S. of Innovation

Bureau of Indian Education
Taos Day School, New Mexico

Riverside Indian School, Oklahoma

California
Nueva Vista Language Academy

Colorado
Infinity High School

Connecticut
O’Connell Elementary School

Delaware
North Dover Elementary School

Dept. of Defense Education Activity
Brussels Elementary/H.S., Belgium

Bechtel Elementary, Japan

Fort Campbell High School, Kentucky

District of Columbia
Friendship Public Charter School
Blow Pierce Academy

Florida
Tohopekaliga High School

Georgia
Heritage High School

Guam
iLearn Academy Charter School

Hawaii
James Campbell High School

Idaho
Christine Donnell School of the Arts

Illinois
Oregon Junior/Senior High School

Indiana
Union Elementary School

Iowa
Eagle Grove Elementary School

Kansas
Leawood Middle School

Kentucky
Owensboro Innovation Academy

Louisiana
Harry Hurst Middle School
Maine
Robert Conners Elementary School

Maryland
Calvert High School

Massachusetts
Falmouth Academy

Michigan
Hanover-Horton Elementary School

Minnesota
Clover Ridge Elementary School

Mississippi
Madison Middle School

Missouri
Sullivan High School

Montana
Hyalite Elementary School

Nebraska
Bennington South Middle School

Nevada
Garside Junior High School

New Hampshire
Arts Academy of New Hampshire

New Jersey
Leeds Avenue Elementary School

New Mexico
Bernalillo Elementary School

New York
Maplewood Intermediate School

North Carolina
Greene Central High School

North Dakota
Valley City Jr./Sr. High School

Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System

Ohio
Lakota Central

Oklahoma
Jenks Middle School

Oregon
Oregon School for the Deaf

Pennsylvania
Kutztown Area High School

Puerto Rico
Escuela Especializada de Educacion Bilingue

Rhode Island
Young Woods Elementary School

South Carolina
Saluda High School

South Dakota
Stanley County Elementary School

Tennessee
Arlington High School

Texas
Del Valle High School

U.S. Virgin Islands
St. Croix Educational Complex

Utah
Helen M. Knight Elementary School

Vermont
Wallingford Elementary School

Virginia
Falmouth Elementary School

Washington
Lummi Nation School

West Virginia
Robert L. Bland Middle School

Wisconsin
Jackson Elementary School

Wyoming
Beitel Elementary School
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2022 National Christmas Tree Lighting is presented by the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation, with the generous support of the following companies and organizations:

The 58 trees that make up the America Celebrates display were donated by Mountain Top Fraser Fir, Santa’s Choice Tree Farm, and Merlyn Farms.

Vendors

22 Degrees
All Access
Anna’s Worldwide
AVRS
Blanchard Communications
Boulevard Carroll
Charm City
Choice Live
Cue Tech
Global Image Works
Kober Post
Manassas Travel
Maryland Sound
MFE Insurance
Mountain Productions
MVP Picture Works
Norton Projects LLC
Pete’s Big TV’s
Posh & Luxe
Juli Pritchard-Lui
Saunders Electric
Sound Design
Sunbelt
United Metro Golf Cart

Special thanks to Kelli Jones, tonight’s National Park Service “host ranger” from Grand Canyon National Park.

Pre-Show Entertainment: Elizabeth Yoder, Producer, and Rosemary Lopez Campbell, Coordinator
Program: J.W. Arnold, PRDC Public Relations
Cover Photo: UPI/Alamy

Special thanks to the dedicated staffs of the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation for their hard work and expertise in making the National Christmas Tree Lighting possible.

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation also wish to thank the staff of the White House Visitors Office for their continued collaboration on this event.
The National Christmas Tree Lighting is a production of White Rose Way Entertainment.

Executive Producers
Kristi Foley    Leon Knoles

Director
Leon Knoles

Producer
Renato Basile

Music Producer
Nathan East

Talent Producer
Lindsay Saunders Carl

Peter Arsenault    Rob Devlin    Mark Jackson    Daryl Moore    Tshaka Stewart
Lorna Basse    Kyle Farmer    Sewell Johnson    Steve Morrow    Dave Thibodeau
Gage Beckman    Steve Ford    Kobe King    Kevin Murphy    Art Thomas
Brian Bednar    Julion Francis    Benjamin Krumholz    Jennifer Naranjo    Marc Urselli
Andy Bell    Sven Giersmann    Anthony J. Lalumia    Sara Niimi    Steven Weinkam
Paul Bell, Jr.    Pat Gleason    Mark Landy, Jr.    Thom Peachee    Paul White
Larry Boshers    Chase Gritton    Jeff Latonero    Darryl Player    David Wild
Nevin Brabham    Kenny Gritton    Rusty Lee    Keith Price    Chris Williams
Gerard Brancato    J.J. Hacker    Talon Lesle    Nasrin Rashidi    Paul Wittman
Patrick Brazil    Audrey Hanson    Roberto Lopez    Olivier Revel    Kenny White
Monet Bullock    David Hernandez    Billy Martin    Bern Rexer    Sheldon Yellowhair
Jonathan Burch    Charles Hill    Don McClurkin    Joe Rose    Amanda Young
Linda Carrizzo    Kevin Horiuchi    Doug McKinley    Kris Simms    John Zuiker
Frank Cedeno    Andrew Humphries    Roger Melvin    Remona Soleimani
Joey Despenzero    Josh Jackson    Steve Meyer    Lee Stevens

Celebrating 100 Years
CAPTURE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT WILLARD INTERCONTINENTAL

As the official hotel sponsor of the 2022 National Christmas Tree Lighting, the Willard Intercontinental is helping make the holidays merry and bright.

Light up your holidays with beloved traditions at our iconic Washington landmark. From Christmas Day brunch to holiday caroling and afternoon tea, join us in celebrating the season with your favorite festivities all month long.
Preserving the Wonder of Parks

Our national parks tell the ever-evolving story of who we are – the story of America, in all its struggles and triumphs. Places that spark a sense of wonder, curiosity, and reflection, reminding us of where we've been while also inspiring where we go next.

As the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation, together with a passionate community of park champions, works to preserve the special places and stories that shape our past, present, and future.

Get involved at nationalparks.org