

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TREE EXHIBIT

### GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION

1. Trees will be approximately 3½' - 4' tall and lit with white lights. Longwood staff will decorate the trees with the children's ornaments.
2. Moving decorations, blinking lights, candles, identifiable photographs of children, religious or political ornaments are considered **unacceptable**.
3. All ornaments must be handmade with attached method to hang. However, no perishable or live items are allowed (see enclosed list of suggestions).
4. The ornaments **must be** firmly constructed to withstand unheated night temperatures.
5. Due to the size of the tree, we will accept a minimum of 75 ornaments, and a maximum of 100 ornaments per entry. Overall ornament size should not exceed 4"x4". We cannot guarantee that every ornament will be placed on the tree.
6. Tree tops should not exceed 8"x11" and need a sturdy method of attachment.
7. Garland is best made in five – 4' sections.
8. Pack ornaments, garland, and tree top in boxes **with lids**. Clearly mark each box with school name.
9. Longwood will donate \$50.00 to participating school's to help defray supply expenses (checks to be mailed in September).
10. Each school will also be given complimentary passes for **30 students** and **3 adults** for a one-time visit anytime during the Christmas Display season, either individually or as a group. Passes may be picked up when ornaments are dropped off by parents or teachers.
13. While Longwood Gardens will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for damage or loss.

## **SUGGESTED MATERIALS FOR ORNAMENTS, GARLANDS, AND TREE TOPS**

- cones, sweet gum balls, pods
- tiny terracotta pots, fired clay
- buttons, beads, spools, shells
- dried flowers, Spanish moss
- puzzle pieces, wooden cut outs, popsicle sticks
- pipe cleaners
- tulle, raffia, ribbons, grapevine
- felt (double layer), pompoms
- cardboard, heavy paper
- punched tin, small mirrors
- recycled plastic creations
- paper chains
- other items that tolerate varying temperatures

**The following materials will not hold up and should not be used:**

- dough, play dough
- thin paper ornaments (unless laminated)
- very heavy ornaments or tree tops - ceramics
- cranberries, oranges, other dried or fresh fruits
- nuts, corn, noodles
- popcorn, seeds, rice, oatmeal, all other perishable food items
- non-wired ribbon (over 1" diameter)
- glass, other breakables