

## 7-Foot Tree Information & Guidelines 2024

### REGISTERING YOUR 7-FOOT TREE

Registration opens on **Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am**

- There is a nonrefundable \$40 designer registration fee for each 7-foot tree.
- **There is a limit of (1) 7-foot tree per registration.**
- 7-foot trees are given out on a first come, first served basis. If you are placed on the waitlist, the fee will not be charged until we can secure a tree for you to decorate.
- If you choose to decorate a 4-foot tree (i.e., pay the registration fee) and are on the waitlist for a 7-foot tree, you **MUST** be willing to decorate both items.
- Registration will close on **Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** (*There is a very good chance that we will sell out of 7-foot trees before this date*).

**SURVEY/CONFIRMATION-** You will be sent an e-mail confirmation after you register.

- If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail within 24 hours, please e-mail [FestivalOfTrees@KennedyKrieger.org](mailto:FestivalOfTrees@KennedyKrieger.org).
- There will be a link to a required designer survey. Please fill this out with the necessary information. It will be sent out on October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- **The required survey MUST be submitted by Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Please give your tree a title.** If a tree title is not indicated on the survey, “Happy Holidays” will be used, and you will not have the option to change it once on-site.
- **If you are interested in buying your tree back** you must indicate so on the Designer Survey, otherwise, we cannot guarantee the opportunity to buy back your designed item.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS-** Kennedy Krieger Institute will provide a 7 ½ or 7-foot artificial tree.  
(Please note that the exact size of the tree will depend on the amount available from the manufacturer and that the measurement is 7 or 7.5 feet from the base of the stand to the top of the tree)

- You will provide all the decoration and display materials for the tree. Any items placed on or under the tree will be considered a donation and will be given to whoever purchases the tree.
- All trees **MUST** have electric lights on them. (Please DO NOT use battery operated lights!)
- **Everyone must provide an extension cord** (approximately 8'). If you need to use more than one outlet, please also bring a power strip. Extension cords & power strips cannot be returned.
- You may keep your receipts for IRS tax purposes.

**DECORATING DAYS & TIMES- Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> through Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**(Times vary, they are listed on the survey, and are first come, first served basis.)**

- You will be asked to sign up for one Designer Day time slot per item you have signed up for. This information will be emailed to you and sign-up will occur in late October/early November. **Designer Day time slots will be filled first come, first served.** We will not be able to add more designers once a given time slot is closed.
- Designer Day time slots will be **four hours long**. At the end of the four hours, you must finish your design and exit the Fairgrounds.
- If you would like to decorate your tree early or offsite, trees will also be available for pick-up at the Maryland State Fairgrounds - Cow Palace on **Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> and Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 3pm**.
- Designer Days will be held at The Maryland State Fairgrounds/Cow Palace, 2200 York Road, Timonium, Maryland 21093.
- Check-in will take place in the Center Hall of the Cow Palace (where the glass doors are). **You cannot enter the building or check-in before your scheduled time slot.**
- Upon check-in, you will receive a brown identification tag that MUST be tied to the stand of your tree, near the center pole in a concealed spot.
- Plan to allow 2-4 hours for set-up and bring a step stool or ladder with you if needed.
- It is a good idea to dress in layers, as the temperature varies in the Cow Palace.
- We recommend that you do not bring valuables (purses, wallets, etc.) inside the Cow Palace during decorating. Kennedy Krieger Institute and the Maryland State Fairgrounds will not be held responsible for any lost or stolen items.

**DECORATING YOUR TREE- Please read carefully.** There are several necessary rules for **decorating your tree!** Kennedy Krieger reserves the right to remove or request changes to any design item not within these guidelines.

- Please remember this event is a fundraiser for Kennedy Krieger Institute. At Kennedy Krieger Institute, our commitment is to treat everyone with civility, dignity, and respect. We respect, celebrate, and honor the diversity of our employees and families/patients/students including race, color, ethnicity, national origin, culture, socioeconomic status, age, language spoken, accent, marital status, veteran or military status, immigration status, disability, religion, pregnancy status, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression. **To promote diversity and inclusion, please consider the representation of items such as dolls or figurines (e.g., Santa, angels) so that they reflect the diversity of our stakeholders.**
- **All designs will be reviewed by the Institute's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion committee. If they feel your design does not reflect the above, they may alter your design.** (You, the designer, will be notified prior to the event.)
- Use your best creativity when producing the design but please avoid themes that:
  - Portray social or political commentary or controversial or morbid messages
  - Feature violence or violent games, books, movies, or weapons
  - Use profanity or anything that could be perceived as not for a child-friendly audience

- Your tree will be moved at least once, therefore **all decorations, lights, replacement lights (if needed) and trim, must be wired to the tree.** The ornaments must be glued to their caps to make them more stable for movement.
- The display you create will be transported following the event. Please ensure that your entire design:
  - Can be moved/transported
  - Can be lifted into and out of vehicle by two people of average strength/build
  - Can stand up to being bagged, strapped down, and transported
  - Can fit through a regular sized door
- **Please note:** no spraying of aerosols is allowed inside the Cow Palace **under any circumstances.**
- To ensure the integrity of your tree, please do not use balloons in your decorations, as they may pop or deflate by the time the purchaser brings the item home.
- **No perishable items, wrapped or unwrapped, are allowed on or around the tree.**
- Be mindful that the display will be visible from all angles, including the back. Be considerate of neighboring tree displays.
- **Total tree space should not exceed 4 feet x 4 feet.** If you need additional space for your 7-foot tree design, you must let us know by Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> in the special needs/requirements section of the designer survey. **Designers will pay an additional fee of at least \$40 for more space (exact fee amount to be determined based on how much extra space is needed). Remember, total tree height with topper should not exceed 9 feet.** Payment will be done through credit card payment online.
- All signage provided at the Festival of Trees is the sole property of Kennedy Krieger Institute. Only Kennedy Krieger Institute Festival of Trees employees may make changes or alterations to signs. **Decorations and/or stickers CANNOT be adhered to the signs. The designer will be charged \$100.00 for each sign that they damage.**
- If you include gift cards, merchandise, tickets, or other items of value with your tree, please complete a [Valuable Items Form](#) and bring it to Designer Day so the information can be included in our Sales System. Please also include this information in the Designer Survey. All items of value should be handed to event staff upon check-in to store in a safe place. You should place copies or empty boxes with the tree.

**JUDGING OF YOUR TREE-** Awards will be given for several categories.

- **Please remember that judging is subjective and cannot be changed once the winners are determined.**
- Ribbons will be mailed to the winners after the event; **please do not take your ribbon with you.**

**SALE OF YOUR TREE-** Your decorated tree is a donation to Kennedy Krieger Institute and will be sold at the Festival of Trees.

- All proceeds from the sale of your tree will benefit the children of Kennedy Krieger Institute.
- Some trees may be assigned to a Festival of Trees sponsor company or organization. **Please note that the “Sponsored By” portion of the tree sign is reserved for those companies/ organizations that have made a monetary donation of \$3,500 or more to the event.** As a designer, you are **not** allowed to alter this part of the sign.
- The designed items are priced using a set pricing structure and are priced at the sole discretion of the Festival of Trees Committee. **The determined price may not reflect your actual cost.**
- Any tree not sold will become the property of Kennedy Krieger Institute and may be used to decorate Kennedy Krieger Institute for the holidays, donated to other local non-profits or used for future marketing and promotional opportunities for Festival of Trees.
- **While we love creative ideas, we ask you to keep in mind that our end goal is to sell each tree.**
- If you are interested in buying your tree back, please make note of this in your designer survey. A staff member will call or email you on **Tuesday, November 26, 2024, between 12 - 8 pm** to inform you of the price of your tree. You will pay by credit card over the phone if you are still interested in purchasing.
  - You will have **24 hours to call or email back** and purchase your tree; otherwise, it will be on sale for the public.

#### **IN APPRECIATION FOR YOUR DESIGN**

- You will receive **(10) complimentary general admission tickets to Festival of Trees 2024** and **(4) complimentary tickets to the Designer Preview Party.**
- The **Designer Preview Party** will take place on Friday morning, **November 29, 2024, from 9am until 10am.** (*Your ticket will not allow you entry into the Preview Party earlier than 9am.*)
- If you are unable to attend the Designer Preview Party, these (4) Preview Party tickets can be used as general admission tickets at any time throughout the event.

**Thank you for donating your time and effort to help Kennedy Krieger Institute make Festival of Trees a TREE-mendous success!**