

Brookfield Zoo Chicago's Community and Corporate Tree Decoration Guidelines

Please share these guidelines with everyone in your organization. Organization logos or promotional information is not allowed for community trees. **Unaccepted items and ornaments made from the materials listed below are not allowed on the trees and will be removed.** Animal exhibits may be within close proximity to trees so please keep in mind the health and safety of the animals when constructing your ornaments.

Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Ornaments: - Decorated popsicle sticks - Laminated paper - Styrofoam balls - Plastic needlepoint clothespins - Foil wrapped objects - Strung beads/bead garland - Fabric/ribbon garland and tree toppers - Soda cans - Wood items - Plastic containers (film, margarine) - Plastic milk bottles Ornament Hangers: - Fabric - Ribbon - Yarn - String <i>*Brookfield Zoo Chicago is not responsible for ornaments/decorations that are missing, stolen, or lost.</i> <i>**Please note that ornaments made of breakable items or items deemed unacceptable based on guidelines will be removed from the trees and will not be saved.</i>	NON-DURABLE ITEMS: - Tinsel (or icicles)/tinsel tree toppers - Glass, ceramic, porcelain, etc. - Wire/metal or pin ornament hangers FOOD ITEMS (including but not limited to): - Suet with bird seed - Peanut butter balls/dipped pinecones - Dog biscuits or pet Food - Candy Canes, candy, cereal, etc. - Food on strings (popcorn, cereal, peanuts) OTHER: - Signage with logos or promotion of groups or companies on community trees – this is only allowed for our corporate trees - Spray snow - Ornaments made of dough (varnished or shellacked dough) - Strung Styrofoam “peanuts” - Objects with jagged edges - Unlaminated paper - Balloons - Stickers - Electronic ornaments, lights, etc. - Inappropriate ornaments/Ornaments that aren't family friendly (weapons, foul language, etc.)

PLEASE REMEMBER DURABILITY. The ornaments need to withstand the elements of winter. Ornaments should be painted, varnished, shellacked, or laminated (this does not include food items). Water-soluble glue (Elmer's) is NOT recommended.

Please hang ornaments with string or yarn (no wire or pipe cleaners). Tie the ornaments on tight enough that they will not blow off, but not so tight that volunteers are unable to remove them.

Lights will be strung by Zoo staff. **Do NOT add additional lights of your own.** Your groups should make enough ornaments to sufficiently decorate these trees – approximately 100–150 ornaments for Community trees and 200 – 300 for Corporate trees, about 3x3” in size.

Please Note: If your group would like to keep its ornaments, you can remove them January 5–18, 2026 during regular zoo hours (10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). Ornaments left on the trees after Saturday, January 18, 2026 will not be saved.

Questions? Please email Tree.Trim@BrookfieldZoo.org.

Ornaments deemed inappropriate, offensive, or non-inclusive by Brookfield Zoo Chicago will be removed and discarded.