



Greetings from FHN and the Freeport Public Library!

You are invited to participate in the 2025 **FHN Community Festival of Trees** which will be held at the Freeport Public Library, 100 E. Douglas Street, Freeport beginning Monday, November 24, and continuing through Sunday, December 28.

Each year, many unique and beautiful trees are decorated by local not-for-profit organizations, schools, churches, and clubs for public viewing at the Library. For example, last year's winners were:

Judges' Award

- Lincoln-Douglas Fourth Grade, *The Best Way to Spread Holiday Cheer is Singing Loud for All To Hear* - 1st Place, \$500
- Freeport High School National Art Honor Society, *Singing through the Holidays* - 2nd Place, \$300
- Open Bible Learning Center Elementary, *Christmas Cheer for All to Hear!* - 3rd Place, \$150

Peoples' Choice

- Open Bible Learning Center Elementary School's, *Christmas Cheer for All to Hear!* - 1st Place, \$500
- Lincoln-Douglas Fourth Grade, *The Best Way to Spread Holiday Cheer is Singing Loud for All To Hear* -- 2nd Place, \$200
- Blackhawk Elementary School PTO, *Blackhawk Elementary's Holiday Cheer World Tour* - 3rd Place, \$100

Prizes will be awarded again this year! There will be two top cash awards of \$500 each, one for first-place selection by a formal judging committee and another for the People's Choice Award, which will be determined by public voting via ballots at the Library. A second-place award of \$300 will be awarded by the judging committee, as well as a third-place award of \$150. We will give away a second place-award of \$200 and third-place award of \$100 for People's Choice.

Entries will be accepted from schools, churches, service organizations, clubs, and other officially organized not-for-profit groups (people may not enter as individuals). Judging for the prizes, other than the Peoples' Choice, will be done by a panel of local judges and will be subjective, since the trees will be works of art. However, the following criteria will apply during judging:

- Interpretation of theme selected by the entrants
- Complexity of decoration
- Perceived degree of effort
- Overall creativity

FHN will furnish the trees, approximately six feet tall, to be decorated for this event at no cost to your organization. You will be responsible for providing lights for your tree. Trees will be available to **decorate on Tuesday, November 18 through Saturday, November 22** during normal library hours. The trees will be displayed throughout the Library from November 24 – December 28. You may **remove decorations on Monday, December 29 through Saturday, January 3** during normal library hours. Please do not include irreplaceable decorations. FHN and the Freeport Public Library are not responsible for any damage to or theft of ornaments and other decorations. The trees themselves remain the property of FHN.

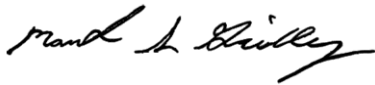
This event will be widely supported through a variety of marketing efforts, so in addition to the cash prizes, your organization will have a great opportunity to be included in a number of promotional activities. FHN and the Library will host Santa storytelling sessions, the Frosty Family Fun event, and offer a Santa letter drop off throughout the holidays.

Should you wish to support the overall theme of this year's Festival of Trees activities when decorating your tree, the theme is **"In the silence of a snowy night, the sounds of the season speak"**.

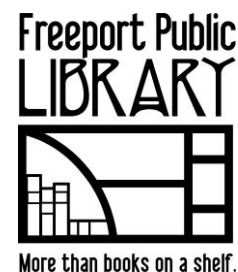
It's easy to participate ... just complete the enclosed form and return it to M45 Marketing Services, 524 W. Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032 or email your information to chris.byers@m45.com by Wednesday, **November 5. No late registrations will be accepted.** If you have any questions, please call Chris at 815-801-4196.

We're getting into the holiday spirit and can't wait to kick off all these great activities for this very special time of year. ***We hope you will join us,*** and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,



Mark Gridley
FHN President and CEO



Community Festival of Trees Entry Form

We would like to participate in the 2025 FHN Community Festival of Trees!

Contact Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Tree Name/Theme: _____

We agree/understand:

- We agree to decorate our tree between Tuesday, November 18 through Saturday, November 22 during normal library hours.
- We agree to undecorate our tree between Monday, December 29 through Saturday, January 3 during normal library hours.
- We understand that FHN and Freeport Public Library are not responsible for any damage or theft to our ornaments.

Contact Signature

Please complete and return this form by Wednesday, November 5 to:
M45 Marketing Services, 524 W. Stephenson Street, Freeport, IL 61032
or email your information to chris.byers@m45.com.