

Christmas Tree Decorating Competition 2018

RHS Garden Wisley

On display Thursday 6 December – Wednesday 2 January

Competition Factsheet

What is the competition about?

The Christmas Tree Decorating Competition is an opportunity for school pupils to showcase their creativity and imagination to RHS members and 20,000 visitors to RHS Garden Wisley over Christmas.

Who can take part?

Schools signed up to the RHS Campaign for School Gardening are eligible to submit designs and apply. If you are not registered yet, it's free and easy to join. Just visit <https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Register> to find out more.

Each school will need to be able to set up their decorations between 10.30am and 3.30pm on either Monday 3, Tuesday 4 or Wednesday 5 December 2018.

The decorations **MUST** be designed and created by pupils and students, not just adults.

How do schools enter?

If you would like to take part in the competition, please complete the registration form and up to three designs and return by email to learning@rhs.org.uk with 'Christmas Trees' as the subject. Designs and registration forms must be received by **5pm on 18 October 2018**.

By sending a registration form and designs, your entries will be considered for selection by RHS judges. Five designs from primary schools and five designs from secondary schools will be selected and winners will be notified by Thursday 25 October 2018.

Deadline for all registration forms and designs is 5pm on Friday 18 October 2018.

Is there a theme to the competition?

The theme for this year's competition is to imagine you are an elf living in a treehouse in the woods. What decorations would you put on your Christmas tree? Take your inspiration from the plants, trees and woodland creatures that share your home.

Tips on designing your tree:

- Think about how you can resource your decorations for free by asking parents for donations or recycled items that pupils can then use to create their decorations.
- Ensure that you have enough time to collect all of the decorations that you will need for display.

What are the benefits of taking part?

Aside from providing a fun activity for pupils and showcasing your school's creativity to over 20,000 RHS Garden visitors, we are also presenting a People's Choice prize. The trees will be judged by visitors over the Christmas period and they will be able to vote for their favourite tree. The winner will be announced once the competition has finished and the votes have been counted.

What is provided by the RHS?

A Christmas tree between 6ft and 7ft tall will be provided and will already be in position ready for decorating.

When do we decorate our tree?

There will be three decorating days at Wisley on Monday 3 (10.30am – 3.30pm), Tuesday 4 (10.30am – 3.30pm) and Wednesday 5 December 2018 (10.30am – 3.30pm) of which you may attend one or more. All decorations must be complete and in place by 3.30pm on Wednesday 5 December.

How many pupils can we bring?

This is entirely up to you, but due to the location of the trees and the number of schools taking part we would recommend limiting your groups to no more than 8-10 pupils. Please ensure that you have enough adults present to supervise your group.

Where do we go on the planting day?

The competition will be held in the Glasshouse Gallery, further details will be sent nearer the date.

Are there any restrictions on the decorations that we can use?

Yes, please consider the following restrictions when designing your trees:

- Decorations should not extend past the width or height of the tree by more than 10cm
- The trees will be on display for six weeks indoors so we recommend not using living plants unless they are able to survive not being watered.
- Your decorations should not include anything that relies on a power source (e.g. mains electricity, batteries).
- Please do not use edible decorations (e.g. bird seed, dried fruit, gingerbread or salt dough)
- Please do not use an excessive amount of aerosol-based products (e.g. spray paint or artificial snow spray).

When will the decorations be taken down?

You will need to collect any decorations or items that you wish to keep from your tree on **Monday 7 or Tuesday 8 January 2018**, between 10.30am and 2.30pm.

Any further questions?

Please email learning@rhs.org.uk and we'll be happy to help.

Terms and Conditions:

- The judges' decision is final.
- Please note that entries will not be returned to school premises and will need to be collected. If you wish to collect your decorations this can only be done on Monday 7 or Tuesday 8 January 2018. After this time all remaining decorations will be recycled.
- Please note that the Christmas tree remains the property of the RHS.