Holiday Lighting Contest

Entry Form, Rules, and Judging Criteria

Official Entry Form

Please complete all fields. Incomplete forms may not be accepted. Entries must be received by the stated deadline.

Participant Name	_____
Address	_____
	_____
Phone Number	_____
Email Address	_____
Category (check one)	☐ Residential ☐ Commercial / Business
Display Location / Address	_____
Brief Description of Display	_____
	_____
	_____
Signature	_____ Date: _____
	By signing, I certify that I have read and agree to the contest rules.

Contest Rules and Eligibility Criteria

- Open to residents, businesses, non-profits within city limits.
- One entry per property/address.

Display Requirements

- Displays must feature holiday themed lighting.
- Displays must be illuminated and visible from the public street or right-of-way during designated judging hours.
- Displays must not create traffic hazards, obstruct sidewalks, or interfere with public safety.
- Inflatable displays, light sculptures, traditional string lights are permitted.
- Displays must remain up and operational through the end of the contest period

Entry Deadline and Submission

- Completed entry forms must be submitted by the published deadline of December 11, 2026.
- Forms may be submitted in person, by mail, or electronically. (City Hall - 118 W. Washington St. or cityhall@clintonillinois.com)
- Late entries will not be accepted.

Judging Schedule – Judges: Clinton Spark

- Judging will occur on designated evenings, the week of December 14, 2026.
- Exact dates and times will be announced after entry closes. Entrants are not required to be present.
- Judges will view displays from the public right-of-way unless prior arrangements are made.

Judging Criteria

Displays are evaluated on a 100-point scale. Judges score each category independently. The highest total score in each category wins.

Category	Points	Description
Creativity & Originality	25	Unique theme, innovative use of lights, storytelling, or unexpected elements that stand out.
Overall Visual Impact	25	First impression, scale, brightness balance, color coordination, and curb appeal from the street.
Craftsmanship & Detail	20	Quality of installation, neatness of wiring, attention to detail, and durability of the setup.
Theme & Cohesion	15	How well the elements work together to tell a story or present a unified holiday theme.
Community Spirit	15	Welcoming atmosphere, inclusivity, contribution to neighborhood holiday cheer, and accessibility.
TOTAL	**100**	*Maximum possible score*

Awards – City purchased gift cards from local businesses

- Traditional: captures the nostalgia of Christmas
- Judges' Choice / Best Overall Display.
- People's Choice (Facebook).

Additional Notes

- Entrants grant permission for photographs of their displays to be used for city purposes.
- Questions may be directed to City Hall.