



Chicago Zoological Society
Inspiring Conservation Leadership

Brookfield Zoo's Community and Corporate Tree Decoration Guidelines

Please share these guidelines with everyone in your organization. Ornaments made from the materials listed below are not allowed to be hung on the trees and **will be removed**. Please keep in mind the health and safety of the animals when constructing your ornaments.* Be creative!

Materials NOT Recommended for Ornaments:

• **FOOD ITEMS** (including but not limited to):

- Cereal
- Suet with bird seed
- Peanut butter balls with bird seed
- Dog biscuits
- Pine cones dipped in peanut butter
- Pet food
- Food on strings (popcorn, cereal, cranberries, peanuts, pasta, marshmallows)
- Candy canes
- Ice cream cones with birdseed
- Graham crackers

• **NON-DURABLE ITEMS:**

- Ornaments made of dough
- Varnished or shellacked dough
- Strung Styrofoam "peanuts"
- Objects with jagged edges
- Unlaminated paper

• **OTHER:**

- Tinsel (or icicles)
- Straw
- Glass
- Ceramic/Porcelain
- Anything breakable**
- Anything valuable*



*The Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo is not responsible for ornaments/decorations that are missing, stolen, or lost.

**Please note that ornaments made of breakable items will be removed from the trees and will not be saved.



Materials Recommended for Ornaments:

- Decorated popsicle sticks
- Laminated paper
- Styrofoam balls
- Plastic needlepoint clothespins
- Foil wrapped objects
- Strung beads
- Yarn
- Fabric
- Soda cans
- Wood items
- Plastic containers (film, margarine)
- Plastic milk bottles



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 Brookfield 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 about 3" x 3" in size.

Please Note: If your group would like to keep its ornaments, you can remove them January 1–19, 2019 during regular zoo hours (10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). Ornaments left on the trees after Saturday, January 19, 2019 will not be saved.

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

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