



Tree Trim Decoration Guidelines

Please share these guidelines with everyone in your organization. Ornaments made from the “not acceptable” 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!

Acceptable	Not Acceptable	Other Important Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>FOOD ITEMS <i>(including but not limited to):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cereal Suet with bird seed Peanut butter balls Dog biscuits Pine cones dipped in peanut butter Pet food Food on strings (popcorn, cereal, peanuts) Candy canes <p>NON-DURABLE ITEMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tinsel (or icicles) Straw Glass Ceramic/Porcelain <p>OTHER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ornaments made of dough Varnished or shellacked dough Strung Styrofoam “peanuts” Objects with jagged edges Unlaminated paper Pins Signage with logos on community trees—this is only allowed for our corporate trees 	<p>DURABILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ornaments need to withstand the elements of winter. They should be painted, varnished, shellacked, or laminated (this does not include food items). Water-soluble glue (Elmer’s) is NOT recommended. <p>HANGERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>LIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lights will be strung by Brookfield Zoo staff. Do NOT add additional lights of your own. <p>AMOUNT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 3” x 3” in size

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.

Please note: If your group would like to keep its ornaments, you can remove them January 1–14, 2023 during regular zoo hours (10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.). Ornaments left on the trees after Saturday, January 14, 2023 will not be saved.

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

BROOKFIELD ZOO

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