



California Shines The 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Project Outdoor Tree Ornament Criteria

November 4, 2011 is the deadline to provide ornaments.

California students of all ages and skills are invited to create ornaments for the 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Project that depicts our theme “California Shines”. From the Pacific Ocean to the sparkling deserts, from the high mountain peaks to its forests, rivers and abundant Central Valley, the diversity of nature and the people who live here, are what make this great state of California shine.

California Students

Although anyone can participate, a special invitation goes out to school classes, after-school programs, home school groups, scout troops and all other interested youth groups to create the ornaments for the outdoor tree. California students will have the privilege to join a long standing National tradition creating ornaments for the Capitol Tree.

Educators

Educators, look at our ideas for incorporating a mini-lesson into your ornament project. We have posted three options for you including:

1. There is No Away-Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
2. Water Helps California Shine.
3. California’s Diverse Ecosystems.

Outdoor Ornament Criteria

Ornaments should reflect the theme “California Shines” by showing how the rich cultural and ecological diversity of this state makes it shine. Due to the sheer volume of ornaments we anticipate receiving, not all ornaments will be selected. To help ensure your ornaments can be used on the 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, ornaments must meet the following criteria:

- 9—12 inches in length, and less than 1/2 pound in weight.
- Make sure there are appropriate holes in your ornament for hanging.
- Durable & weatherproof for use outdoors in wet & wintry conditions.
- Decorate with colorful materials that, if possible, are reflective. To minimize environmental impacts, ornament makers are encouraged to use recycled or natural construction materials.
- Decorate on both sides with a large, relatively simple design that can be seen from a distance of 25–70 feet.
- Ornaments can’t be returned, so while they should be thoughtfully created, valuable artwork is not appropriate. **October 7, 2011 is the deadline to provide ornaments.**

- Enclose a completed Ornament Submission Form in the shipping box with your ornament(s).

Ornament Design Ideas:

Your creativity is welcomed as long as it meets the ornament criteria. It may be helpful to look at ornaments we created as examples to help inspire you. You may also see what has been created in past years, to get ideas. Photos of ornaments from Wyoming (2010), Arizona (2009) and Montana (2008) are posted on their respective websites.

2010, Wyoming Forever West. <http://www.capitolchristmastree2010.org>

2009, Arizona's Gift. <http://www.capitolchristmastree2009.org>

2008, Sharing Montana's Treasures. <http://www.capitolchristmastree2008.org>

2011 Capitol Christmas Tree Lighter Drawing

One lucky participant between the age of 5 and 17 and their parent or guardian will be chosen to receive an all expense paid trip back to Washington D.C. to help light the outdoor Capitol Christmas Tree in early December 2011. To be considered, each applicant must fill out an entry form for: 2011 Capitol Christmas Tree Lighter, found on this website.

Contact Information:

Please call and leave a message for the Capitol Christmas Tree Ornament Committee at 209-586-3234 ext 602. Someone will get back to you shortly. You may also email our Ornament Coordinator: Phyllis Ashmead, US Forest Service: pashmead@fs.fed.us

We welcome your involvement. If you wish, take a few pictures of your group and your ornaments for our Photo Gallery page. Provide those to us in a digital format on a labeled CD shipped with your finished product along with a completed Ornament Submission Form included on this website. We can't wait to see the results of your creative efforts!

Ship to:

Mi-Wok Ranger District
Stanislaus National Forest
Attention: Capitol Christmas Tree Ornaments
P.O. Box 100
24695 Highway 108
Mi-Wuk Village, California 95346

Visit the rest of this website to learn more about the rich traditions surrounding the annual Capitol Christmas Tree project, the details of California's 2011 effort, and the many partners and sponsors who are working together to coordinate this effort.