



First Annual Merrymeeting Tree Festival

**November
20-22, 2026
November
27-29, 2026**

Tree Guidelines & Tips

Thank you for your interest in participating in the 2026 Merrymeeting Tree Festival!

The event will be held at the YMCA at Brunswick Landing, 24 Venture Avenue, Brunswick Landing, Brunswick ME 04011, from November 20-22 and November 27-29, 2026.

All trees will be located in the gymnasium and they are the centerpiece of our event. Thank you for your consideration of being a tree benefactor. Each tree will be raffled off at the conclusion of the event using raffle tickets that guests purchase for \$0.50 apiece. Due to space limitations, and for fire code purposes, certain guidelines must be followed.

All trees must:

- **Be free standing**
 - **Be artificial**- no live greenery. Your "tree" can also be a 'depiction of a tree' (ex. Gifts in a tree formation, a picture of a tree, an inflatable tree, a tree ornament, small potted artificial plant, etc.)
 - **Be lit with LED lights**. There is limited electricity, so only LED lights will be allowed as many trees may use the same power strip. If you use battery-powered lights only, you will get a high-five and our eternal gratitude
 - **Fit in their designated space**. Each tree space is 4' x 6' (approximately) If you need more space then that we can try and give you a double space, but we need to know early.
 - **Have \$500 minimum value of gifts**. Trees and gifts must have a minimum value to the customer of \$500.00. That is the floor, and the ceiling is endless. Some past Tree Benefactors thought it can only be \$500- not at all. Make it for whatever you want up to \$4,999 as long as you get over the \$500 minimum threshold (which is value to the customer, including tree and decorations).
- Please note that trees valued over \$600 require a 1099 to the winner, so having a tree between \$500- \$599 is just as good as having a tree value over \$600.*
- **Specify what can be won**. Each tree space requires a list of what will be won and the value of each item (and yes including the tree and decorations). Ideally everything presented in the space will go to the raffle winner unless otherwise specified. As an example of not included items, if you are a music store, and you are giving away a guitar, if you have it on your personal display rack so that it displays better, then you must specify that the display rack is not included. Having your list of items prior to set up helps us tremendously. We request your item list by Wednesday, November 11, 2026. It helps with signage, layout of spaces, etc.

- **Be set up at the event venue by Thursday, November 19, at 4:00 p.m.** We have a preview night event at 5PM.

Tips, Suggestions and Need to Know Info

- Use this to promote your business. Tie in your colors and products.
- All high value items must be given to our team so we can put them in our locked safe. This includes any jewelry, lottery cards, gift cards, electronics and smaller items that could be taken. We recommend instead, incorporating an explanation of the item on the tree, or perhaps even a picture of the items. We will have volunteers monitoring the event, but this assures we will be able to pass along the gifts at the end of the event to the tree winner.

More Tips, Suggestions and Need to Know Info

- If an item of value is a key piece to your decoration and theme, and you would like to display it, let us know and we will figure out a way to accommodate it. Mostly for items like laptops, tablets, gaming systems, headphones, etc., we will use the box to display the items and put the contents in lock up. No actual gift cards on trees.
- Pick a great theme, or tell a story. Think about what would inspire you to want a tree.
- Also, if you have a business that doesn't necessarily have a product you can offer, think about buying gift cards to some of your favorite businesses, or what would be helpful for others (maybe a grocery store or pet store gift cards for instance, or home heating oil). Or take your staff or some friends on a toy shopping trip and literally give a family over \$500 worth of presents.
- Get creative! Don't limit yourself to thinking a tree can only be a tree. What does this mean? Does your product come in a box? Build a tree out of the boxes and decorate the box tree like a real tree. Is your gift an experience like a trip to somewhere like a beach? Then setup a beach scene with a palm tree instead of Christmas-style tree. Are you an artist? Create an installation piece that includes a tree. Or if you have one big item - like a snowblower or a kayak - put a smaller desktop tree in the seat of the kayak or on the hood of the snowblower so festival visitors "get the tree and everything under it". By all means, most people will do a traditional tree, and that's what is wonderful and what the event is all about, but if you have other ideas,- go for it.
- A special note: for "deluxe giveaways" that need more space than 4' x 6' let us know early, and we will find a way to accommodate it if we can.
- Tickets will be dropped in individual tree poles so those guests wanting your tree will get your tree. Because of this, we will also have three Community Choice Awards for the three trees that receive the highest number of tickets. It's not a competition, but it may be a nice distinction for those employees, staff or volunteers who make the tree.

MERRYMEETING TREE (formerly Mega Tree): Please bring one additional item of at least \$25 value to donate to the MERRYMEETING TREE which is a tree comprised of one item from each tree space plus some additional gifts

Festival Hours & Drawing of Winners: The drawing of winners will take place on the afternoon of the closing day, Sunday, November 29. Winners will be notified that afternoon/evening and pickups will be coordinated.

For more information contact:

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