

# Chickasha Festival of Light turns 30

An admission-free event so everyone may experience the magic & spirit of Christmas

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The Chickasha Festival of Light turns 30 this holiday season. The festival turns the 43-acre Shannon Springs Park into a spectacle from now until New Year's Eve.

According to chickashafestivaloflight.org, what started out as a small group of local citizens with a dream to spark community spirit has become a nationally-recognized Christmas light display. The enthusiasm that the Festival of Light creates for the citizens of Chickasha transcends the borders of Grady County, bringing in visitors each year from across the United States. Much of the success of the festival is due to hard-working volunteers. A small board of directors lead the organization, meeting and planning all 12 months of the year. Our community volunteers serve as gate greeters, display designers, lighting crews, fundraisers, photographers, traffic guides, graphic artists, entertainers, and much more."

Logan Lassley, spokesperson for the Festival of Light, said that the current leadership for the festival gets a lot of their guidance from those who came before them. "One of the most important things, to not only me but to our board," Lassley said, "is to make sure we're following the founding

## Through the Eyes of a Child

**WHAT:** Chickasha Festival of Light

**WHEN:** Now through December 31

**WHERE:** Shannon Springs Park, 2400 South 9th Street in Chickasha

**DETAILS:** A shuttle will travel between the 50-foot Leg Lamp Statue at New Downtown Park and Shannon Springs Park to help with parking

**MORE INFO:** chickashafestivaloflight.org

members' guidelines that they set forth. We're having them out to honor what they've done. Some of the mission statement they set forth was helping people see Christmas through the eyes of a child and that's truly what the experience is. We limit outside advertisement. We don't have any outside advertisement inside the park. We don't charge, we want everybody to be able to enjoy Christmas, and so that's what we will do moving forward.

"One of the bigger changes for this year is everything's local. When we were selecting food trucks, we looked to keep it close. The gift shop vendors, they're all different vendors from the Chickasha area. We have some vendors coming back. We have camels for the first time in a while. We have the carriage rides coming back. We have all sorts of different things going on in the park." The park will feature

rides, food, and plenty of festivities, including more than four million lights. "We actually purchased 500,000 more for our newest expansion, The Frozen Forest," Lassley said. "It's going to be north of the dam in Shannon Springs Park. The intended effect is: You're walking through a dark forest and you just see these icicles. It looks like you're walking through a frozen forest. It gets so dark and then it's lit up by the cyan lights." A free event with so many attractions, finding parking at the festival has often been a bit cumbersome, but

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