

Let There Be Holiday Lights

■ **DWP Light Festival, an LA holiday tradition, joins with the Zoo's Reindeer Romp for a great family event.**



DWP — It just wouldn't be the holidays without the DWP's Light Festival. Participants can view more than a half-million lights in festive displays showcasing the uniqueness of the City.

The Light Festival in Griffith Park is open every night from 5 to 10 p.m. through Dec. 30. This one-mile celebration of twinkling lights and music has become an LA tradition.

Visitors can drive through in their own cars, walk the route or take advantage of the warm and comfortable shuttle service. Shuttle service is available from the LA Zoo for the weekends of Dec. 2-4, Dec. 9-11 and each night from Dec. 16 through Dec. 30.

Don't forget about the Zoo's Reindeer Romp Under the Stars, which coincides with the Holiday Light Festival. The zoo will be open at night from 6 to 9 p.m. Dec. 10-23. Families are invited to come to the zoo and children can enjoy crafts, activities, live reindeer and more for just \$2 per person.

People can enjoy two activities. They can come to the zoo and park in their parking lot and visit the Reindeer Romp activities and then take one of the shuttle buses and enjoy the DWP Holiday Light Festival.

Guests are also asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the "Spark of Love" Toy Drive, sponsored by the LAFD. Your gift will help brighten the holidays for a needy child. Drop off containers are available at the entrance on Crystal Springs Drive.

The DWP Holiday Light Festival was started 10 years ago with the vision of then-City Council President John Ferraro. He had a vision of a holiday gift from the City to the residents and visitors of Los Angeles. The thought was to do something unique and the idea of light displays was very appealing.

Since lights were the idea, the DWP was approached to help lead the effort with their expertise in power. The festival was

started with the light displays representing important landmarks of the City of Los Angeles.

The festival has grown every year. It now stretches more than a mile along Crystal Springs Drive in Griffith Park. The festival includes displays showcasing famous City landmarks including City Hall, the Vincent Thomas Bridge, the Hollywood Bowl, Venice Beach, Staples Center, the LA Zoo and more.

This year there are three new additions. The DWP is adding a display of the Griffith Park Observatory; a salute to William Mulholland, marking the 150th anniversary of his birth; and a new 40-foot holiday tree.

The actual displays are developed with the direction of the DWP and are constructed by a Southern California firm, Harrington Decorating Company. The displays are installed by another company, Jarvis.

The festival is important to the community as it offers a family attraction that can be enjoyed by young and old and is free of charge (the Reindeer Romp has a separate admission fee).

Every year the DWP hears stories of the families who make their annual visit to the festival. Families often gather children in the back seat in their pajamas and enjoying popcorn, as they visit the festival and enjoy the lights and the tradition.

Not only does the festival include the many light displays, but there is holiday music to add to the experience. The festival offers something that can be done at no cost. The festival also assists in raising toys as part of the LAFD's Spark of Love Toy Drive. Visitors to the festival can drop off unwrapped new toys and they are given to children who might not otherwise receive holiday gifts.

Choraliers Sing In the Holidays

The Choraliers, the DWP's performing arts group, has scheduled its annual Holiday show.

Titled "Christmas Time Is Here," the show is scheduled for the John Ferraro Building, A level, at 11:30 a.m. Dec. 21.

The Choraliers will also be performing at several "adopted schools" the week of Dec. 5 - 9.

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