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* The 2025 theme: “Blast from the Past”
* Trees can be decorated displaying the different eras/decades/historic moments (NO DUPLICATES – chosen time periods will be accepted on first come, first serve basis). Work together and get creative! Spots are limited so register early.

**Important Dates**

* The Gallery of Trees Preview Party will be held **WEDNESDAY, December 3rd, 2025.** Kankakee County Historical Society members and their guests enjoy a night of kicking off the holiday season at the museum. **Your organization will receive ONE free ticket** with the option to purchase an additional ticket. Names of ticket holders need to be provided to the museum no later than November 20th). Hours are 5 – 7 pm (dinner is ready at 5:30 pm). Tickets must be paid in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door.
* The 2025 Gallery of Trees will open to the public **Thursday, December 4th, 2025.**
* **The museum’s hours during the month of December are Thursday – Sunday 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. December 4th through 28th.**  The museum will be **CLOSED** Christmas Eve, **Christmas Day,** and New Year’s Eve.
* **We will have special activities on Saturdays (“Santa’s Seasonal Saturdays”) with pop up vendors, visits from winter characters, entertainment, and themed crafts and games.**
* The last day the 2025 Gallery of Trees will be open to the public is December 28th, 2025 (Sunday). All votes will be counted at the end of that day.
* The museum will be closed to the public following the Veteran’s Day ceremony on November 11th, 2025, through December 3rd, 2025, for decorating & Thanksgiving break.
* **Tree locations will be selected by a representative of your organization on Thursday, November 13th, 2025, at 9am. Selections are made in a “lottery” style process.**
* **Trees may be decorated between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. November 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd.**
* **Tree decorations are to be removed** **between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. January 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2026.**

**Decorating Guidelines**

* An artificial tree will be provided to you. Once selected, the tree must stay in its original location. You must supply your own lighting. **No candles or organic material are permitted including dirt, hay, straw, food, or live foliage.** If you choose to provide your own artificial tree, you may replace the provided tree AFTER final selections are completed (tree must be within reasonable parameters).
* **Decorations are limited to the actual tree and area immediately under the tree.**
* The museum cannot be responsible for lost or broken ornaments, or other materials associated with your tree or display area.
* The Museum will provide signage that will be placed under the tree.
* Please, be mindful that over 4,000 people will be viewing your tree.
* Any questions should be directed to the museum’s Executive Director, Veronica Featherston.

**Prizes**

* Voting will be in two categories: the **adult** votes and **children** votes.
  + First Prize $100
  + Second Prize $ 50
  + Third Prize $ 25

**Volunteers**

* We need volunteer assistance due to the number of visitors visiting the Gallery of Trees each year. This is to work the front desk and make sure everyone signs the guestbook and to also help sell raffle tickets. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.
* During the tree set up we ask for volunteer names and dates for which they can assist. You can also email now to reserve your volunteer shift: kankakeecountymuseum@gmail.com
* We ask that each organization give at least **one shift to volunteer. Each organization must sign up for their shift by November 20th.**
* **The shifts will be 10am – 2pm or 2pm – 6pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.**
* Museum staff will be taking dates and times at 815-932-5279. **CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY 2025**

**Gallery of Trees participant information can also be found on the Museum website kankakeecountymuseum.com.**

**Thank you for participating!! 2025 is going to be a spectacular year! We look forward to seeing your creative tree designs for our 47th Annual Gallery of Trees – “Blast from the Past”.**