

ALLEN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING Join the city of Allen for the grand lighting of its 35-foot-tall Christmas tree featuring more than 20,000 lights. Expect live entertainment and a visit from Santa and his elves. Dec. 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Allen Civic Plaza, 305 Century Parkway. Free. cityofallen.org.

DICKENS IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PLANO Enjoy live entertainment, a tree-lighting ceremony, horse-drawn carriage rides, caroling, storytelling, free ice skating, food, visits with Santa Claus and chances to check out the Interurban Railway Museum. Dec. 4 from 6 to 10 p.m. in downtown Plano and at Haggard Park (tree lighting at 7), 901 E. 15th St. Free. plano.gov.

IRVING ARTS CENTER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AND PERFORMANCE "Holiday Movie Magic" is the theme for this year's event, which features photo ops with Santa, trees decorated with art by Irving ISD elementary students, dancers, jugglers, holiday-themed art projects and refreshments. The evening ends with a free performance of LightWire Theater's *Very Electric Christmas* (tickets will be available at the open house, while supplies last). Dec. 4 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Free. irvingartscenter.com.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT KLYDE WARREN PARK AND RELIANT LIGHTS YOUR HOLIDAYS The downtown Dallas park and the nearby AT&T Performing Arts Center have teamed up for an all-day celebration on Dec. 5. The park portion of the proceedings, which runs from noon to 6 p.m., will include free photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, live reindeer, activities and demos from arts and cultural organizations, crafts for kids and a tree lighting. After the lighting, it's just a five-minute walk from the park, 2012 Woodall Rodgers Freeway, to the center, 2403 Flora St. Between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m., you'll find performances by the Polyphonic Spree, Bubba Hernandez y los Super Vatos, and cast members of the national tour of *Jersey Boys*; free photos with Santa; and a fireworks show. Free. klydewarrenpark.org and attpac.org/reliantlights.

CHRISTMAS IN THE STOCKYARDS It seems fitting that Santa will be a cowboy at this celebration featuring a Fort Worth Herd cattle drive, interactive Cow Camp activities for kids, pony rides, armadillo races, a Christmas parade and more. Take your camera for Santa photos. Dec. 5 from noon to 5 p.m. at the Fort Worth Stockyards, 130 E. Exchange Ave., Fort Worth. Free. stockyardsstation.com.

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA This two-part event is made up of a community parade through Irving's Heritage District followed by a tree-lighting ceremony outside Irving City Hall. The kickoff is at 4 p.m., when a



File Photo/Ashley Landis

Owen (left) and Henry Frazer visited with Santa Claus at last year's Candlelight at Dallas Heritage Village. This year's celebration will be Dec. 12 and 13.



File Photo/Andy Jacobsohn

Boy Scout Micah Quarles of Dallas helped Kaylee Gardner of Fort Worth play a spelling game during the 2014 KwanzaaFest at Fair Park.

parade with a "12 Days of Christmas" theme winds along Second Street and Irving Boulevard, featuring floats, bands and community organizations. After the parade, head to City Hall for the tree lighting, fireworks, carols, a holiday stage show and a special appearance by Santa Claus. Dec. 5 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at Irving City Hall, 825 W. Irving Blvd. Free. irvingevents.org.

MERRY MAIN STREET This Frisco holiday tradition includes music, crafts, photos with Santa and the annual tree-lighting ceremony. Dec. 5 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Simpson Plaza near Frisco City Hall, 6101 Frisco Square Blvd., Frisco. Kids can

reserve a time slot for the children's holiday store, which offers gifts for parents for \$5 or less, at the Merry Main Street event site beginning at 4:30 p.m. friscofun.org.

NIGHT OF HOLIDAY MAGIC NRH2O water park serves as a backdrop for a Christmas tree lighting, fireworks, photos with Santa, performances by school and community groups, a marshmallow roast, mini train rides, children's crafts, holiday shopping, a puppet show, holiday photo ops and more. Dec. 5 from 4 to 8 p.m. at 9001 Boulevard 26, North Richland Hills. Free. nrhtx.com.

LANTERN LIGHT An ice pond for skating is a new addition at this celebration. Pose

with Father Christmas, take a tour of the holiday exhibit, see historical demos, hear choir performances and more during this old-timey celebration at Heritage Farmstead Museum. Dec. 5 from 3 to 8 p.m. at 1900 W. 15th St., Plano. \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and seniors (children 2 and younger are admitted free). Register online by Dec. 5 for a discount. heritagefarmstead.org.

WYLIE ARTS FESTIVAL Browse among the wares of more than 100 art and craft vendors, check out a petting zoo and pony rides, be a part of the Community Canvas painting project, see the Festival of Lights Christmas Parade and catch a tree-lighting ceremony. Dec. 5 in Wylie, with vendors and activities from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Events Center, 200 N. Ballard; the parade is at 7:30 on Ballard, followed by the tree lighting at Olde City Park, 112 S. Ballard. Free. wylietexas.gov/artsfestival.

CANDLELIGHT "Picture Perfect" is the theme for the 44th annual event, which lets visitors sing along with strolling carolers, tell St. Nicholas their holiday wishes, ride in a carriage pulled by donkeys Nip and Tuck, and make holiday crafts. Local groups will perform on three stages all evening. Festive foods will be available for purchase. Discount tickets, available online through Dec. 12, cost \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$6 for children 4-12. At the gate, tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and \$8 for children 4-12. Dec. 12 and 13 from 3 to 9 p.m. at Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park, 1515 S. Harwood St., Dallas. dallasheritagevillage.org.

KWANZAAFEST The annual festival returns for two days at Fair Park, featuring live entertainment, activities for children, health screenings and holiday market vendors. Dec. 12 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Dec. 13 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free, but tickets are required (for more info on tickets, check the website closer to the event date). Fair Park's Automobile Building, 1300 Robert B. Cullum Blvd., Dallas. [facebook.com/KwanzaaFest](https://www.facebook.com/KwanzaaFest).

HOLIDAYS AT THE HEARD Check out lights and holiday decorations along a half-mile Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary nature trail, have a photo taken with Father Christmas and Mother Nature, buy hot beverages and treats and hear live holiday music in the Heard outdoor amphitheater. Dec. 12, 18 and 19 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary, 1 Nature Place, McKinney. At the gate, tickets are \$9 for adults and \$6 for kids 3-12 (children 2 and under are admitted free). Guests who purchase their tickets online before the event will save \$2 per ticket. heardmuseum.org.

Compiled by
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