
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

Waukegan Park District and Metra Partner to Host 2021 Christmas Express

Waukegan, Illinois (November 11, 2021) – The Waukegan Park District and Metra are partnering to host two trips aboard the Christmas Express on Thursday, December 2, 2021 and Friday, December 3, 2021 at 4:30pm from the Waukegan Metra Station, located at 95 N. Spring Street. Each trip from Waukegan to the North Pole (Kenosha) will feature stories, caroling, and other holiday adventures. All children aboard the Christmas Express will receive a special gift from Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and Elfie.

Check-in on the day of the event is required before the trains depart. The schedule for the train rides is as follows:

- 4:30pm to 5pm: Check-In
- 5pm to 5:12pm: Wait to Board Christmas Express on the Platform
- 5:12pm to 6:12pm: Train Ride (Waukegan to Kenosha and Kenosha to Waukegan)

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Participants are encouraged to wear pajamas to enjoy a comfortable holiday adventure. The cost to participate is \$20 per resident and \$25 per nonresident. More details, including registration, are available at waukeganparks.org/holidays.

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About the Waukegan Park District

Established on December 26, 1916, the district has 53 properties and more than 742 acres of land, including the 18-hole Bonnie Brook and 9-hole Greenshire Golf Courses. Properties are managed to the highest environmental and conservation standards. Facilities operated by the district include the Field House Sports, Fitness and Aquatics Center, Jack Benny Center for the Arts, Waukegan's Greg Petry SportsPark, Waukegan Skate Park, BMX Track, SplashZone, Percussion Playground, recreational centers, disc golf course, dog exercise area and agility course, outdoor sports fields, picnic areas, playgrounds, splash pads, and sports courts including basketball, tennis and pickleball. A full range of programs and services are offered year-round for all ages, from infants to seniors as well as special needs populations. Healthy lifestyles, wellness initiatives, and a connection with the outdoors and nature are integrated throughout programs, services, and special events. Cultural events are provided by the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra and Concert Chorus, and the Waukegan History Museum. We offer something for everyone!

The District is a member of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), Illinois Association of Park Districts (IAPD), Illinois Park and Recreation Association (IPRA) and the Park District Risk Management Agency (PDRMA). The District employs 64 full-time and nearly 200 part-time, seasonal, and temporary employees and is recognized by the IPRA as an Exceptional Workplace.

Nationally accredited by the NRPA Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) and State accredited through the IAPD Distinguished Agency Accreditation. The District has received Government Finance Officer Association (GFOA) awards for Distinguished Budget Presentation and Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for ten consecutive years and received the coveted GFOA Triple Crown Award recognizing the District's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting and Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 2019. The Waukegan Park District was awarded the NRPA National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2013 and named a Gold Medal Finalist in 2012, 2013, 2019, and 2021.

TJA/07/22/2021

About Sugar Skulls Xilotl

Sugar Skulls Xilotl is a family oriented team that promotes, preserves, and educates the community on what is Día de Muertos by encouraging communal participation in their Sugar Skull Decorating Program and their annual Día de Muertos Celebration since 2011.

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