

Fairmont Scottsdale's 5th Annual "Christmas at the Princess" Holiday Tree Lighting

Written by Melissa Larsen

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On Thursday, Nov. 20, the public is invited to Fairmont Scottsdale's 5th Annual "Christmas at the Princess" Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration. The family-friendly event features the lighting of the Scottsdale resort's four-story musical Christmas tree in Princess Plaza. The 45-foot tree has 67,000 LED lights which twinkle and dance to 12 holiday songs. The tree lighting ceremony includes the christening of the Desert Ice Skating Rink with an appearance by Olympic Gold Medalist Dorothy Hamill, a visit from Santa, carolers, complimentary sugar cookies and spiced cider on the Plaza. Hot cocoa, cocktails and treats will be available for purchase from the resort's Kringle's Korner, as well as from food trucks on the front drive.

Event-goers of all ages will also enjoy more than 2 million Lagoon Lights, the start of the Princess Express Train, the opening of the Desert Ice Skating Rink and debut of the new Christmas Carousel, which makes its debut this year.



The schedule is as follows:

5:30 p.m.: Pre-Show and holiday family festivities; Scottsdale Fire Department on hand with engine tours & accepting unwrapped gifts for Toys for Tots

6 p.m.: Performance at rink by the Ice Den's Coyotes Skating Club of Arizona

6:45 p.m.: Tree lighting ceremony begins including performances by: Scott Keo, a Michael Bublé tribute artist; Scottsdale Christian Academy Spiritline; appearance by Dorothy Hamill

7 p.m.: Tree is lit

7:15 p.m.: Desert Ice Skating Rink opens and all other attractions are open



The tree lighting ceremony kicks off the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess' toy drive for Toys for Tots. The Scottsdale Fire Department will be on-hand with a fire truck to accept unwrapped toys that evening. The resort will also be a drop-off location for Toys for Tots through Dec. 20. Local residents can pull right up to the Toys for Tots box at the front drive/porte-cochere, where a bellman is happy to assist with their donation.

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The "Christmas at the Princess" festival runs through Jan. 4.

Save the date: Dec. 7 is AZ Foothills Friends and Family Night at "Christmas at the Princess"! Event-goers can receive 50 percent off admission and parking by mentioning AZ Foothills at gate.