



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

November 10, 2020

Greetings, Wisconsin educators and students!

I know I don't have to tell you that 2020 has been an extraordinarily difficult year. Students, staff, and educators like you and families across our state have faced unprecedented challenges this year from grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic to the pain of systemic racism. But this year has also shown the strength and resilience Wisconsinites share in our empathy and kindness for each other and underscored that we are at our very best when we all work together.

Each year, we typically display a tree in the Wisconsin State Capitol Rotunda filled with handmade ornaments created by students across our state. This year, as we reflect on all the challenges 2020 has brought to our state and our country now more than ever, we could all use some hope as we move forward, together. That's why I am excited to announce the theme for our 2020 holiday trees and decorations is "Hope," and we would like to extend a special invitation to your school and students to contribute handmade ornaments that showcase hope in Wisconsin.

We are asking students to make holiday ornaments that celebrate hope and what it means to you, your families, and your communities. Hope can be thinking about what you're looking forward to doing in the future, it could be a person or group of people who give you hope, or the activities or symbols that have provided hope to you during these challenging times. I know that if we stay hopeful, celebrate Wisconsinites' resilience, and continue to practice empathy and compassion, we are going to get through this together.

Wisconsinites across our state have had a difficult year, and as the State Capitol remains closed due to the ongoing pandemic and our efforts to keep Wisconsinites and visitors safe, we want to celebrate our kids and share their hope for a brighter future with folks across our state. Instead of having a Holiday Tree in the Capitol, we're going to showcase the great work of our students a little differently this year by sharing "Hope" at veteran's homes, hospitals, and nursing homes across our state.

While school might look a little bit different for classrooms across the state, we encourage educators and parents to share classroom or virtual experiences making ornaments with pictures and stories through Facebook and Twitter using #WICelebrateHope and #WIHope. Please see the back of this page with important information about the ornaments and instructions to ensure we receive them in time to distribute and share them across the state.

I look forward to seeing all the holiday ornaments this year. Thank you, as always, for the work you do and for helping to bring hope to this holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor

Ornament Instructions

Ornaments must be made of non-breakable material and strong enough to hold up during shipping and to be handled while the tree is being decorated. For these reasons, we recommend students do not use fragile items or paper cutouts that may tear easily. Please attach a ten-inch loop of ribbon or string from which each ornament will hang.

Please send your ornaments to the address below as soon as possible and by **Friday, December 4, 2020** at the latest. Also, please include the educator's name and grade, school name, and address so that we may acknowledge your contribution.

Claire Franz
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Division of Facilities Development & Management
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If you have any questions about an ornament, please contact the Facilities Management Information Center at (608) 266-1485. Please note that ornaments will not be returned.