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POPULAR

Light Up Princeton breaks previous event records in 2023

Chloe Smith
Jan 11, 2024



Some of the Christmas light displays in Princeton's Riverside Park illuminated for the annual Light Up Princeton drive-through light show.

Chloe Smith

With the end of December
holiday themed light di

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But the end of Light Up Princeton means that the Princeton Pantry will receive a generous donation from the event and the community members that contributed.

As the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism took down the festive light displays, Director Kim Young compiled the data for the event this year and found the Princeton community helped Light Up Princeton break some previous records.

In the three years the chamber has been keeping track of the number of cars traveling through Light Up Princeton, 2023 saw the highest number of cars with 3,548 cars visiting the displays; 380 cars was the highest number that visited in one night.

“This year had the most cars come through since we’ve been counting. That was pretty cool,” Young said.

2023 was also the first year the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism did not have to cancel a night of lights due to weather conditions.

“It just went so well. It was an unusual year as far as having no snow. However, it was great for us. It was nice that we didn’t have to cancel, it was nice to set up in decent weather, we took down earlier than we’ve ever taken down,” Young said. “While it would’ve been nice to have a snow globe feeling down there, as far as working it, it was a really nice year.”

During Light Up Princeton, the event collects donations from attendees for the Princeton Pantry and Light Up Princeton for the coming year. Volunteers who work the event also have the opportunity to donate half of the night's donations to a nonprofit of their choice.

In 2023, Light Up Princeton collected 2,072 pounds of food and \$2,983 for the Princeton Pantry.

“We’re excited about benefiting the food pantry and local nonprofits benefiting,” Young said.

Light Up Princeton had a total of 220 volunteers sign up to work the event, filling every available time slot. From those volunteers, 20 local nonprofit organizations benefited from the Light Up Princeton donations, with \$5,965 being split among them.

“A big thank you to the community for being so supportive. People are just so generous when they come through, whether it be food pantry donations or cash donations,” Young said. “We are just so appreciative, and really grateful for all the people that come through and support it.”

As Light Up Princeton grows into the future, Young hopes to grow the event with more, and potentially locally made, light displays at the hands of volunteers.

“So one thing we’re going to do is we’re going to be requesting some additional volunteers,” Young said. “Some of us on the committee went and visited other light displays this year, and there was a community that made a lot of their displays. So we’re going to look into that for next year.”

Light Up Princeton plans to present the Princeton Pantry with a check and the donations it received from the event in the coming weeks.

The light displays will return to Riverside Park at the end of November 2024.

For more information about Light Up Princeton, visit
<https://www.princetonmnchamber.org/>.

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