



12520 Ulmerton Road Largo, FL 33774-3602
Phone: 727-582-2117 Fax: 727-582-2550
flbgfoundation@gmail.com
www.flbgfoundation.org

Our mission is to “Provide leadership and financial support for the Florida Botanical Gardens at Pinewood Cultural Park.”

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation is proud to announce the dates and times for the 18^h Annual “Holiday Lights in the Garden” event. This year’s celebration will begin on **Friday, November 23, 2018** and end **Sunday, December 30, 2018**. It will be open every evening between **5:30 and 9:30**, weather permitting. Admission is a suggested donation of **\$5.00 per person** over the age of 13.

This event is the Foundation’s most significant philanthropic effort each year. Proceeds allow the continuation of the event the next year while providing substantial financial support to the Florida Botanical Gardens to fund events, maintenance, renovations and staffing for the Gardens.

The Florida Botanical Gardens Foundation and the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Department look forward to sharing the beautiful lights displayed at the Florida Botanical Gardens with visitors from near and far. The Gardens will sparkle with more than 1 million, twinkling, colorful, LED lights of all shapes and sizes. Vibrant laser lights and lighted figures will wow guests of all ages as they stroll through the Gardens. Brand new at our 2018 event will be expanded pathways and displays following our newly opened Wetlands Walkway.

Our friends, The Train Guys, will be back again for the opening weekend of the event and will have their trains in the Wedding Garden, surrounding our new holiday tree.

Each evening of the event includes fun food, drinks, and ice cream from our partner, St Pete Concessions, so come hungry. Fun seasonal items for the kid in all of us will be available on our Botanical Bounty gift cart, located on the Main Plaza, while all types of seasonal gifts and décor will be available in our Botanical Bounty gift shop, located in the main building, both will be open nightly. To add to the sights and sounds we have arranged nightly entertainment provided by local volunteer talent including dancer and musicians performing a variety of music. So check our weekly Play Bill for info on who will be performing each night. Santa visits regularly throughout the event through December 23, but be sure to call in advance in case he had to go back to the North Pole to handle an issue with the toy making. During the event updates are available at the “Holiday Lights in the Gardens” Hotline: 727-582-5800.

Many of our light displays and lighted garden areas are sponsored by local businesses including Tampa Bay Times, Spectrum Communications, Cox Media, Melby & Associates, PA, McManus & McManus, PA, Edgewater Investments, and Pinellas County Parks & Conservation Resources Department. The Foundation invites local businesses to show their support for this great family event by becoming sponsors. You can sponsor a display for a week all the way up to becoming our Title Sponsor. Information on becoming a sponsor is available on our website, www.flbgfoundation.org or by calling our office at (727) 582-2117.

The Gardens are handicapped accessible. Most walkways are paved: allowing access for wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. However, we do not have wheelchairs or scooters available. Well-behaved dogs that don't mind crowds are welcome at any time, however we recommend avoiding weekends when the crowds are at maximum capacity. Parking, including handicapped parking, is available at our primary event entrance, at 12211 Walsingham Road. Additional parking will be available at our Ulmerton entrance, but parking is limited so come early or choose to visit us on our non-peak days- primarily week nights.

Our Annual Holiday Lights in the Gardens event depends upon the support of hundreds of volunteers as well as Pinellas County personnel, contractors and our FBG Foundation event sponsors, staff, members & volunteers. We work throughout the year to design and plan this winter wonderland. Volunteers provide administrative support, entertainment, greet visitors, collect donations, and manage the light displays. Those wishing to volunteer for this year's event should call the Foundation office or email us at flbgfoundation@gmail.com.

After the lights are put away for the year, we hope you will return to the Gardens during the day to see their natural beauty. The Florida Botanical Gardens is located in Largo, Florida. For general information about the Florida Botanical Gardens call: (727) 582-2100 or visit one of our websites:

www.flbgfoundation.org

www.flbg.org

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