



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

Oct. 12, 2021

Greetings, Wisconsin educators and students!

The past two years have challenged our state and our country more than we ever could have imagined, but Wisconsinites have displayed incredible resilience and we have worked together to face some of these challenges head-on. We found strength in the empathy and compassion we showed one another, we found it in our loved ones, families, and neighbors, and we found it in our traditions and finding new ways to safely celebrate and honor those traditions we hold dear. When we were facing some of our toughest days, one thing remained the same—the grit and tenacity of us as people and the strength we find in community and the place we call home.

That's why we are pleased to announce "Hometown for the Holidays" as the theme for our 2021 Capitol Holiday Tree that is displayed in the Wisconsin State Capitol Rotunda and serves as a centerpiece of festivity for those visiting and working at the Capitol building. Each year, the Capitol Holiday Tree is filled with handmade ornaments from kids, students, and families from every corner of our state, and this year will be no different.

We would like to extend a special invitation to your school, students, and their families to help contribute handmade ornaments showcasing what home means to you, the strength of neighbors and community, and what your hometown or home state means to you.

Home means different things to all of us. For some, it's about hometown pride and showcasing what makes their village, town, or city special. As an example, Kathy and I grew up in Plymouth, Wisconsin—the Cheese Capitol of the World!—and that's something we are darn proud of, so we might make an ornament celebrating Plymouth and Wisconsin cheese. For others, home is about celebrating their community, their neighborhood, their heritage, or their cultural identity, and ornaments could depict family traditions, a place where they feel at home, or the people that make up their community. All these ideas of home are important, and we hope this theme will help us celebrate the strength, diversity, and beauty of communities right here in Wisconsin.

We ask that students make ornaments from non-breakable material. They must be 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. We suggest ornaments that are 4-6 inches in size and are made from a color that contrasts with the color of the tree so they can easily be seen and enjoyed by all visitors. Please attach a ten-inch loop of ribbon or string from which each ornament will hang.

Please send your ornaments to the address below by November, 19th 2021. Also please be sure to include the teacher's name and grade, school name, and address so that we may acknowledge your contribution.

Emily Gorman
Wisconsin Department of Administration
Division of Facilities and Transportation Services
17 West Main Street, Suite 119
Madison, WI 53703

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.



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We hope your school will share your classroom's experience making the ornaments with pictures and stories through **Facebook and Twitter using #WICapitolTree and #HometownForTheHolidays**.

We will gratefully accept any ornaments your school provides for the Capitol Holiday Tree. Thank you for helping make the State Capitol beautiful this holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Evers".

Tony Evers
Governor