

Raccoon Township Recreation Board

2nd Annual Raccoon Nights of Lights Competition 2026

Official Rules and Regulations

Eligibility

- **Residency:** Contestants must be residents of, or own a place of business within, Raccoon Township, Beaver County, Pennsylvania.
- **Entry restrictions:** Limited to one (1) entry per household and/or business. Previous winners are eligible to enter.
- **Entry fees:** Contest fee is \$10, \$15, or \$20 per household or business based on registration deadlines.
- **Organizer exclusions:** Contest organizers, employees of sponsoring organizations, and their immediate families are eligible to win due to the nature of the ballot system.

Display requirements

- **Visibility:** All decorations must be visible from the street, and judging is conducted from outside the residence or place of business.
- **Safety and regulations:** Displays must comply with all local housing, safety, and electrical codes. The use of hazardous materials is prohibited.
- **Timeframes:** Early bird registration deadline is October 10, 2026. Regular registration deadline is November 15, 2026. Late registration deadline is December 1, 2026. Judging begins December 14 at 6:00pm and ends December 18 at 12:00pm. Winner will be awarded December 19, 2026. Lights must be turned on by 6:00pm nightly for judging. Please be mindful of municipal building office hours when registering.
- **Yard signs:** Contest requires participants to display an official yard sign for identification during the judging period.
- **Content:** Displays should be family-friendly, suitable for public viewing, and free of political elements. While music or sound effects may be permitted, participants must adhere to local noise ordinances.

Submission process

- **Registration:** Participants are required to submit an official entry form complete with entry fee either in person at the Raccoon Township Municipal Building at 1234 PA-State Route 18, Aliquippa, PA 15001 by October 10, 2026 for early bird registration pricing, November 15, 2026 for regular registration pricing, or by December 1, 2026 for late registration pricing. Registration information can be found online under the events tab on the Raccoon Township webpage or on the Raccoon Township Recreation Facebook page. Please note online payment may not be available. Again, be mindful of office hours when registering. After hours submissions must be clearly labeled and contain exact change when using the dropbox.
- **Photos:** Photo submissions of the decorated home or business may be taken by a Raccoon Township Recreation Board member and submitted online when competition begins.
- **Waivers:** Entrants must sign a waiver of liability, agreeing to participate at their own risk.
- **Promotion:** Please note that Raccoon Township Recreation has permission to use photos of displays for promotional purposes.

Judging and awards

- **Judging criteria:** Judging based on several factors, including:
 - Overall appearance and "curb appeal"
 - Creativity and originality
 - Use of lights and/or other materials
 - Overall theme and spirit
- **Judging process:** Judging will be done via public voting conducted online through QR codes displayed at each home and in person at the Raccoon Township Municipal Building. One vote submission per person per method. Duplicate entries will disqualify voters.
- **Award categories:** "Ready for the Season" Award named from Raccoon Township Volunteer Fire mascot "Ready the Raccoon".
- **Prizes:** Winner(s)/Prize(s) will be announced via Facebook livestream on December 19, 2026 at 12:00pm from the Raccoon Township Recreation page and winner(s) contacted immediately. Winner(s) receive(s) recognition along with a photo of the winning property displayed at Raccoon Township Municipal Building as well as an official certificate to keep and a yard sign to display on the winning property.