

# Tickets On Sale Tuesday For The 11th-annual Winter Light Spectacular

By Mat Provincance  
(Schnecksville, Pa.) — Eastern Pennsylvania’s most spirited holiday family tradition returns when Lehigh Valley Zoo and Christmas Décor host the 11th-annual Winter Light Spectacular (WLS), presented by Service Electric TV & Communications. The popular event is scheduled for 38 dates this season, spanning from Friday, Nov. 15, through Saturday, Jan. 4. Tickets go on sale 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 8, at [winterlightspectacular.com](http://winterlightspectacular.com).

This year’s edition gets underway on Opening Weekend (Nov. 15-17), when special guests Bluey and Bingo will be around all three nights for photo opportunities at the SECTV Fairy Tale Stage. Hours of operation and a full schedule of promotions will be updated daily and can be found at [winterlightspectacular.com](http://winterlightspectacular.com).

Located at LV Zoo in Schnecksville, Pa., WLS is the Zoo’s largest annual fundraiser and was featured by USA Today in “Holiday light displays worth traveling for across America.”

In addition to 1.2 million lights – a total more than any other Pennsylvania attraction – WLS features classic holiday scenes, numerous photo opportunities, multiple fire pits, hot chocolate and so many other holiday treats. There will also be live performances every night featuring popular princesses, such as Elsa, Anna, Cinderella and Ariel. Additionally, Santa Claus will be back and available for picture packages during select time frames at select event date through Dec. 23. Again, visit [winterlightspectacular.com](http://winterlightspectacular.com) for dates, times and promotions.

For the first time ever, VIP Adult Tickets (information below) include a limited edition WLS Buddy the Elf Bobblehead Doll to go along with the other additional incentives of the VIP program.

Revenue from the event supports animal conservation projects and programs at the LV Zoo.

For the fifth consecutive year, WLS will feature timed-ticketing set for two-hour ses-

sions. This modification has significantly improved the guest experience since 2020 by greatly improving traffic flow into the Zoo and positively impacting parking availability.

## General Admission

GA Ticket prices remain \$16 for adults and \$14 for children (ages 2-11) when purchased in advance online; \$17 for adults and \$15 for children (ages 2-11) when purchased at the event. LV Zoo Members continue to save \$6 per ticket, as member prices remain \$10 for member adults and \$8 for member children when purchased in advance online; \$11 for member adults and \$9 for member children when purchased at the event. Infants (ages 0-1) are free and there is no fee for parking.

## VIP Admission

Guests can upgrade the experience with VIP Tickets, available in limited quantities each night. In addition to VIP-only access to the Jingle Lodge Lounge, each VIP Ticket includes the 2024 version of the annual WLS Souvenir Travel Tumbler, unlimited free hot chocolate, an exclusive VIP hot chocolate toppings bar, a S’more kit, a Buddy the Elf bobblehead doll (all VIP adults), a Christmas Bulb Necklace (all VIP children) and a chance to warm up from the cold. VIP Tickets are priced at \$36 for adults and \$32 for children (ages 2-11) when purchased in advance online; \$37 for adults and \$33 for children (ages 2-11) when purchased at the event. LV Zoo Members continue to save \$6 per ticket, as member VIP prices are \$30 for member adults and \$26 for member children when purchased in advance online; \$31 for member adults and \$27 for member children when purchased at the event.

## Group Admission

Special group rates are available for advanced purchase for outings of 20+ people at \$13 per ticket and 100+ people at \$12 per ticket. To book a group outing, or purchase a corporate block, please call the Zoo during normal business hours at (610) 799-4171.

While guests may spot some of the Zoo’s “night owls” during WLS, most of the animals will be off exhibit.

Please visit [winterlightspectacular.com](http://winterlightspectacular.com) or follow the Zoo on Facebook for daily WLS updates, promotions, contests, weather cancellations and so much more.

## St Lukes

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To catch the Student Reporters in action, visit [D11Sports.com](http://D11Sports.com) and check out their Author pages, or watch them in action through all of their social media platforms by searching D11Sports.

Draper has honed his sports broadcasting skills at high school and college athletic contests around Pennsylvania hoping to score a someday job on TV with a national sports network, like ESPN.

He estimates he’s announced at 300 games, across D11 and Penn State Lehigh Valley while a freshman and sophomore there: football, basketball, soccer being his favorites (he’s a former high school soccer player and now coaches the sport).

“Joey’s a natural,” says Di Carlo, director of the program and mentor to Draper, who started on [D11Sports.com](http://D11Sports.com) as a freshman at Emmaus High School. “He has talent that will take him places.”

He speaks from experience. Di Carlo, a broadcast sports veteran for 25 years, founded the Sports Reporter internship program with Mika five years ago to pass on this good fortune, skills and experience.

“I wanted to give back, to help the kids. They have talent and want to use it.” Since 2019, he says, 85 kids have interned at [D11Sports.com](http://D11Sports.com), focusing on both writing about and announcing sports throughout District XI schools.

He rattled off a few of the impressive places they’ve gone to intern, as they move closer to a job in the business: Penn State, University of Mississippi, Hofstra, Syracuse, and professionally with the New York Jets.

Each intern brings their own special skills, interests and drive to the job.

Reporting from the sideline of a football game recently at North Schuylkill High School, Anna Howland, a 17-year-old senior at Lehigh Area High School, peppered the coach and his quarterback with questions after the game. She came prepared: quoting the team’s stats and citing strategies and plays. She applied for the [D11Sports.com](http://D11Sports.com) internship after encouragement from her school’s athletic director.

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“I’m really super-excited to be doing this,” she explained.

Di Carlo observed that Howland “has leadership qualities and can adapt to changing situations. She overcame some shyness during her first game and has built on her announcing and writing skills ever consistently.”

Howland is beyond thankful for the internship. “Al is so great at helping me prepare to call a game and responds quickly whenever we have questions,” she said. She hopes to land an announcing spot at college in Boston, which she’ll start next fall. She is grateful to both Di Carlo and St. Luke’s for teaming up to offer the internships for students to learn and work as sports reporters in their own communities.

“This is an incredible thing, the most unique extracurricular activity and an amazing opportunity!” she says.