

Living Nativity Areas of Service Information Sheet

What is the Lafayette Living Nativity?

The Lafayette Living Nativity is a dramatic representation of the major events related to the birth of Jesus Christ. Beginning with the biblical account of creation and ending with the prophecy of Christ's second coming, twelve life-size scenes address the reasons for and result of our Savior's time on earth. Involving a cast of hundreds, these scenes depict the significance of the baby in the manger and bring to life the message of salvation.

Following is a description of the various areas of service that you and your family may choose to serve in.

Cast

The cast requires the greatest number of servants. Nearly four-hundred volunteers are needed to depict each of the twelve scenes represented. A recorded narrative explaining the events of each scene guides guests as they walk-thru and drive-thru the Nativity. Cast members seek to represent the events described in the recording through a combination of pantomime, improvisation, and visitor interaction. There are no scripts to memorize and previous experience is not required.

The cast will be divided into two teams. These teams will take alternating performance shifts. Depending on the weather, each team will spend 20 to 30 minutes on the sets. While inside, cast members are encouraged to enjoy the refreshments provided and to take advantage of the opportunity to build relationships with others who are serving.

Traffic

With over 10,000 people visiting the Living Nativity, traffic flow is one of the most important aspects of our ministry. This team of volunteers helps to guide the traffic flow from the time a car enters our property at the north entrance, comes down the gravel road, winds their way through the parking lot, and is placed in the queuing area just prior to entering the line to observe the drama in action. Flashlights and traffic vests are provided, along with walkie-talkies for key positions. Mid to late teens can work with their parents in this area!

Tapes

This position has the opportunity to interact with our guests who choose to Drive-Thru the Nativity. Each car receives a cassette tape or CD that has a pre-recorded narration of an introduction to the Nativity, specific instructions about driving through the Nativity, and the powerful message of each scene. These tapes/CD's are collected at the end of the drive-thru, and a few pieces of literature are given to each one of our guests.

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Walk-Thru

You will have opportunities to interact with the guests who choose to Walk-Thru the Nativity! In the Walk-Thru, our guests actually interact with the cast and get a close-up view of the scenes! Greeting them as they enter the welcome area and instructing them on how the walk-thru works is part of this position.

Costume Distribution

Part of what makes the Living Nativity realistic is the costumes the cast members wear! Each night, the cast is asked to go the Ministry House garage and get their costumes. You get to interact with the cast, make sure the costumes fit, collect the costumes at the end of the night. Lot's of fun, and you can stay warm!

Refreshments

Each evening, we provide snacks to those serving in the various areas of this ministry. We also offer refreshments to the many guests who choose to walk-thru the Nativity. This indoor service opportunity involves preparing and transporting food and drink as well as greeting and interacting with visitors.

Childcare

Because the Living Nativity requires so many from our church family, it's necessary to provide childcare for children ages 4 and under. This allows parents the opportunity to serve in other areas of the ministry where they are needed. Come energized and be ready to get creative as you serve the families of younger children in our church.

Animals

Each year, one of the major attractions for the Living Nativity is the many animals involved. We need individuals willing to care for the animals each night as we share the gospel with our community. Some of the tasks involved include feeding, cleaning, and animal transportation.

Set-up: Saturday, November 20 at 6:00 a.m.

A large crew is needed to help remove the sets from semi storage and erect them on the grounds of the church. In volunteering to help with set-up, you will still have opportunity to serve in other areas of the Nativity.

Lighting and Set Prep: Wed, Nov 24 or Wed, Dec. 1 at 8:00 a.m.

A group of individuals is needed prior to the Nativity to organize props, place furniture, and set-up lighting. In volunteering to help with set-up, you will still have opportunity to serve in other areas of the Nativity.

Clean-up: Saturdays, December 4 and 11

Following the Nativity on these evenings, we will need assistance in cleaning the church building. Because many of the guests who attend the Nativity will choose to visit our worship services, we need to make sure that our facilities are prepared for the Sunday ministries.

Strike & Store Sets: Sunday, December 12 after the Nativity

Once the Nativity ends, the sets will need to be disassembled and stored for use next year. This requires a large crew of about 100 persons willing to prepare our building and grounds for ministry during the remainder of the Christmas season.