

Galaxy of Lights Driving Nights FAQ

Q: Can you purchase Driving Night tickets in advance?

A: Yes, of course! Please visit the Shoppe at the Garden to purchase tickets in advance or our website at <http://hsvbg.org/galaxy-of-lights/>

Q: Do I have to pick my evening?

A: You absolutely can, but your ticket is good for ANY driving night, regardless of the date purchased or the date on the ticket.

Q: Do you walk or drive?

A: This is such a great question and the answer is BOTH! Our walking nights are a MUST! Walking nights begin Nov. 9 – 12 and continue Nov. 15– 20. On November 12 and 19 only, your favorite pooch can come enjoy the lights with you! Driving nights begin the day after Thanksgiving and continue thru Dec. 31 (Please note, there are no driving nights on November 26 for the Galaxy 5k and November 27 for the Galaxy 3k Holiday Dash.)

Q: Where is the entrance to Galaxy of Lights?

A: The entrance is off of Bob Wallace near I565 on Phantom Rd. Just look for the BIG “Enter Here” signs. We used to enter through the Garden’s entrance, but it got to be a real traffic nightmare. The U.S. Space and Rocket Center has so graciously allowed us to move through some of their property to keep traffic safe and off Bob Wallace. Be sure to enjoy the view of Aviators Challenge as you pass through!

Q: When is the best time to come to Galaxy of Lights?

A: We are so proud that the Galaxy of Lights has become such a holiday tradition for so many near and far. We have identified some nights for 2016 that traditionally have the potential for long lines of traffic. Those dates are: December 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24. To avoid the long lines and enjoy the lights, we suggest you come early in the season beginning the night after Thanksgiving, weekdays, and as close to 5:30 when possible. Make sure your gas tank and bellies are full! We always love to see those happy faces and even some cute pups drive in.

Q: How much does it cost for driving nights?

A: Tickets are \$25 for up to ten people in a vehicle. Tickets purchased online, at the Shoppe at the Garden and on the less busy nights are \$20 at the gate. Military discounts are available on each Monday night in December with your military ID. Discounted drive-through tickets are available for members (\$15) in the Shoppe at the Garden. They must be purchased in advance.

Q: Are there any discounts available for tickets at the gate?

A: Yes! We offer \$1 off at the gate (per vehicle) with any toys, canned goods, paper products, dog/cat food, and warm coats for our local charities. Military discounts are available on each Monday night at the gate in December with your military ID.

Q: Are there any group rates for tour buses or groups larger than ten?

A: Yes, groups are always welcome. For buses or vans carrying ten or more passengers, the rate is \$25 for the first ten, \$3 for each additional person. For tour buses, the driver is free. Please call to schedule your group at 256-830-4447 ext. 223.

Q: When do driving nights start?

A: Driving nights begin the night AFTER Thanksgiving and continue thru Dec 31st. (**Please note**, there are no driving nights on November 26 for the Galaxy 5k and November 27 for the Galaxy 3k Holiday Dash).

Q: How long does it take to drive through the Galaxy of Lights?

A: This has always been a tough question to answer. If you have a lead foot and it's early in the season, you can make it through in 15 minutes. If you arrive on one of our "already identified busy nights" (December 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24), you could spend upwards of 3 hours from beginning to end. Our volunteers work very hard to make sure that everyone's experience is a delight; it's the holiday season after all! If patience and time are not an issue, your experience during those busy nights will be as jolly as you make them. Otherwise, we strongly suggest an evening early in the driving season, a weekday, and as close to 5:30PM as possible.

Q: Can you get out of the car and take selfies with the lights?

A: Please, NO! Although we understand our quick social media-driven world or the need to share your experience with others, please remain in your cars! Not only are there dangers in jumping out into traffic, but there are also guide wires and posts that hold up our displays that are not always visible at night. Not to mention the traffic jam this causes. We've seen some great photos/videos taken from inside the car that capture the driving experience with all, including sweet babies and precious pets! You are welcome to share your (in the car) driving pics with us on social media. Follow us on Twitter (@hsvbg), Facebook, and Instagram (@hsvgarden). We love to share your photos of people enjoying the hard work of volunteers! Remember: don't post/text and drive. #HBGMoments

Q: How can I sponsor a display at the Galaxy of Lights?

A: Our Galaxy of Lights is sponsored each year by individuals and corporations. Not to mention, all the hard work put in by our incredible volunteers! If you are interested in donating, sponsoring or volunteering, please contact Amy Hamilton at ahamilton@hsvbg.org

Q: Is there a restroom available during driving nights?

A: Yes, when you arrive at the booths to pay admission, mention that you need the restroom. Your volunteers will then guide you out of traffic and let you into the Visitor Center. We will then work you back into line to enjoy the lights.