



## Lantern Festival FAQs

### What is the Lantern Festival?

It's a family-friendly community event and fundraiser for Seacoast Mental Health Center that is hosted by the Alliance for Greater Good, a local non-profit organization. The festival includes face painting for kids, lantern decorating, photo booths, and rockin' tunes with DJ Skooch. The Lantern Festival is an official program of Portsmouth NH 400, and the theme is *Illuminating 400 Years of Community Kindness*.

### When and where is the Lantern Festival held?

The Lantern Festival is on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM. It is held at the South Mill Pond in Portsmouth, NH. A brief ceremony will start at 6:30 PM that includes:

- Julie Johnson, President & Cofounder, Alliance for Greater Good
- Jay Couture, President & CEO, Seacoast Mental Health Center
- Deaglan McEachern, Mayor, City of Portsmouth

Following the ceremony, our volunteers will start lighting and floating the lanterns on the South Mill Pond.

### Is there a rain date?

Yes, the rain date is Sunday, October 1, 2023 with the same starting time of 5:00 PM.

### How much does it cost to purchase a lantern?

Suggested donation amounts are as follows:

	Prior to Event	Day of Event
Lantern- Individual	\$10	\$15
Lantern- Family (up to 3 lanterns)	\$25	\$35
Lantern- Party Pack (10 lanterns)	\$80	\$110

There is no fee to attend the festival, however all donations will be greatly appreciated and will go directly to our beneficiary, Seacoast Mental Health Center.

### **Can I bring my own lantern?**

No. Please use our Lantern Festival lanterns that have been approved by the City of Portsmouth.

### **What do I need to know about decorating the lanterns?**

During the Lantern Festival, our volunteers will light and float your lantern on the South Mill Pond. With that in mind, we encourage you to follow these suggestions when decorating the lanterns:

- To keep our waterways clean, please use magic markers and do not attach anything to the lantern (no glitter or stickers).
- Insert a square Kleenex box inside your lantern to give it structure while you are decorating it.
- To celebrate community kindness, we encourage you to decorate your lanterns with messages and images that express kindness.

### **Where do I get the tea light for my lantern?**

You can pick up your tea light at the Lantern Festival, where our volunteers will secure it to your lantern.

### **Who lights and launches the lanterns?**

For the safety of everyone in attendance, our team of volunteers will light and float the lanterns on the South Mill Pond. Once a lantern is launched it cannot be returned to its owner.

### **Will the lanterns be removed from the South Mill Pond?**

Yes! Our volunteers will take necessary precautions and remove the lanterns from South Mill Pond that evening. They will also remove any trash from the Lantern Festival site.

### **Where can I park?**

Locate off street parking lots using the [Park Portsmouth map](#) that includes Portsmouth's two parking garages: [Hanover Street Garage](#) (near Market Square) & [Foundry Place Garage](#) (near Sheraton, Residence Inn, Fairfield Inn & Suites).

### **Will there be food at the Lantern Festival?**

No. However, we encourage you to enjoy one of Portsmouth's many great restaurants before or after the Lantern Festival.