

Duke Energy hosting virtual Festival of

Trees this year

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — Duke Energy's eighth annual Festival of Trees display and contest will be held virtually this year.

The World of Energy's education center will host the event virtually because of COVID-19 and "to allow the spotlight to shine on local nonprofits through the COVID-19 pandemic," a news release from Duke said.

"Now, more than ever, many nonprofits need community support," Duke spokeswoman Mikayla Kreuzberger said. "We're excited to host the Festival of Trees virtually so that our nonprofits get the recognition they deserve, and possibly widen their reach to a broader audience."

The Festival of Trees involves local businesses, organizations and nonprofit groups decorating trees provided by the World of Energy. A website to view the trees at duke-energy.com/FestivalOfTrees will go live from Nov. 30-Jan. 8. Viewers can go online to see the photo gallery of the trees, review them and pick their favorite tree. The three trees with the most votes will receive \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,000, respectively.

There are 15 organizations participating in the Festival of Trees, each selecting a local nonprofit to benefit.



An Oconee Christian Academy volunteer decorates the school's tree in red, white and teal with ornaments made by students.



A volunteer with YouthLink decorates the organization's tree in flags and ornaments from around the world in preparation for the World of Energy's virtual Festival of Trees.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL