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What to Expect at the Two-Weekend Christkindlmarket Des Moines

The European cultural experience the community has come to know and love returns for two weekends.

DES MOINES, October 14, 2026 – Celebrating its 11th year in downtown Des Moines, Christkindlmarket Des Moines (CDM) will take place Dec 3 – 6 and Dec 10 - 13, 2026 at Principal Park. With the community's support, CDM has grown to become the second largest Christkindlmarket in the U.S. based on average daily attendance. The Festival returns with more amazing activities, vendors and performers.

"Our patrons will want to visit Christkindlmarket Des Moines both weekends, if only to enjoy all the traditional European food made especially for CDM by our hand-selected Midwestern Vendors", Suzanne Hull the Director of Christkindlmarket Des Moines explains. "We'd love to see our patrons both weekends, but if they have their heart set on enjoying our signature experiences, visiting their favorite Vendors or enjoying seasonal performances, they'll want to plan their visit accordingly."

First Weekend	**Second Weekend**
Naschfest | A Taste of Christkindlmarket Des Moines	Naschfest | A Taste of Christkindlmarket Des Moines
Vendors	Vendors
Performers	Performers
Nonprofit Tree Silent Auction *presented by Siegwerk, USA*	Christkindlmarkettreff (Christkindlmarket Meeting Spot)
Opening Ceremony	European Cultural Meet-Up
Krampuslauf *presented by Hessen Haus*	Krampuslauf *presented by Hessen Haus*

Visit Christkindlmarket Des Moines to enjoy the holiday season as you participate in a 750-year-old tradition. Shop regional vendors selling old-world, hand-crafted products from wooden vendor stalls; enjoy lively performances of polka music, traditional dance and choirs in Yuletide Hall; participate in children's activities; sip Glühwein (warm, mulled wine) and savor European beer.

The festival is open to the public free of charge:

Thu, Dec 3, 5pm – 9pm	Thu, Dec 10, 5pm – 9pm
Fri, Dec 4: 11am – 9pm	Fri, Dec 11: 11am – 9pm
Sat, Dec 5: 11am – 9pm	Sat, Dec 12: 11am – 9pm
Sun, Dec 6: 11am – 5pm	Sun, Dec 13: 11am – 5pm

IECC is always looking for enthusiastic nonprofits, volunteers, sponsors and vendors to be involved and help CDM fully encompass the European holiday spirit. Visit our website https://christkindlmarketdsm.com for more information on our nonprofit partnership program, volunteering, vendor applications and sponsor opportunities. All volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. NEW FOR 2026: ***Volunteer Together: Adult + Middle Schooler Combo Teams welcome in select areas!

# # #

Christkindlmarket Des Moines 2026 Sponsors:

Due to the generous support of numerous donors and sponsors, we're able to offer Christkindlmarket Des Moines free to our community. 2026 sponsors included:

	Bravo Greater Des Moines grant recipient
Yuletide Hall Sponsor	Prairie Meadows Casino and Hotel
Yuletide Hall Stage Sponsor	National Endowment for the Arts & the Iowa Arts Council, which exists within the Iowa Economic Development Authority
KinderKorner Sponsor	MidAmerican Energy Foundation
Weihnachtswald (Christmas Tree Forest)	Siegwerk USA Inc.
Krampuslauf (Krampus Parade) Sponsor	Hessen Haus
Prost und Pause Stube (Vendor & Volunteer Lounge) Sponsor	Bank Iowa
Photo Backdrop	Community Choice
Platinum Sponsors	Community Choice Duke Rentals
Gold Sponsor	Lamberti, Murphy & Strong, P.C.
Silver Sponsor	The Deb and Paul Hayes Charitable Fund
Bronze Sponsor	NB Golf Cars Polk County Board of Supervisors TwoTone Creative
Annual Hut Sponsor	The Arlyn & Alice Hesse Family Blake and Abby Kessler Community Choice Duke Rentals Greater Iowa Credit Union GreenState Credit Union Hessen Haus Iowa State Bank Precision Garage Door of Des Moines Veridian Credit Union
Vendor Stall Sponsorship	The Boesenbergs The Härtel Family Prairie Meadows

	The Rasmussen Group

The Iowa European Cultural Connection is a 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit that connects Iowans with European traditions, language education and cultural experiences.

Marketing and branding Kit: https://christkindlmarketdsm.com/about/marketing-and-branding-kit/
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