



Mendocino County's World Famous **SKUNK TRAIN**

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TREE-MENDOUS SHOWDOWN: SKUNK TRAIN VS. SEQUOIA PARK ZOO IN EPIC CHRISTMAS TREE BATTLE!

Fort Bragg, CA – December 19, 2024 – It's the season of twinkle lights and towering trees, and we've been hearing the buzz about who holds the title for the tallest living lighted Christmas tree, and while we love the holiday enthusiasm, we're here to shine a little light on the facts. Our friends at Sequoia Park Zoo have proclaimed their 174-foot-9-inch tree as the "Tallest Living Lighted Christmas Tree in the World." Impressive? Absolutely. Accurate? Well, let's just say there's a taller contender swaying gently in the redwoods.

Meet **Mr. Skunk's Giant Christmas Tree**, standing tall and proud at a merry and magnificent 222 feet. That's not just a little taller—it's a whole 47 feet of bonus holiday cheer. We're talking more height, more wonder, and a lot more neck-craning magic for all to enjoy.

But for us, it's not just about breaking records—it's about creating something truly magical. For three years running, we've imagined a unique holiday experience, something far beyond the typical Christmas fare. We wanted to offer families a festive tradition that reflects the awe of the redwood forest itself. Decorating a 222-foot tree is no small task: it took a skilled high climber, seven days of work, and thousands of twinkling lights to transform Mr. Skunk's tree into a glowing symbol of holiday wonder. Supported by a dedicated ground crew of five people, this labor of love ensures the tree shines brighter than ever.

"It's great to see so much enthusiasm for redwoods during the holidays, but we're confident that Mr. Skunk's tree holds the crown," says Efstathios Pappas, General Manager of the Skunk Train. "At 222 feet tall, it's not only a sight to behold, but it's a reminder of just how magical our redwood forests truly are. And what better way to celebrate the season than to visit us and make up your own mind."

But hey, we're not here to be grinchies. The holidays are all about sharing joy, not splitting the redwood needles. There's plenty of room for everyone to spread some festive fun—just don't forget that when it comes to Christmas trees, Mr. Skunk's is the real showstopper.

This season, hop aboard **Mr. Skunk and the Giant Christmas Tree** and experience holiday magic like never before. As you journey through the world-famous redwoods, you'll see firsthand what 222 feet of towering Christmas delight looks like. If you're looking to truly look up in awe this holiday season, come visit the real MVP (Most Vertical Pine) at the Skunk Train! Bigger isn't always better, but when it comes to Christmas trees, it's kind of the whole point.

California Western Railroad / Skunk Train is a Class III common carrier public utility railroad located in the redwood forests of Northern California's Mendocino County. This heritage freight railroad, which has been operating since 1885, added passenger service after its founding, initially moved redwood logs from the rugged back country to Mendocino Coast sawmills, later transporting finished lumber out to the national railroad network. In 1925, the railroad became known as the "Skunk Train" and, since that time, has become a beloved institution touted as one of the "10 Best Rail Tours in the Country" (USA Today) and a "Top 10 Family Activity in California" (National Geographic Traveler). The Skunk Train's journey covers the same 40-mile route that its freight trains use, crossing over some 30 bridges, all while retaining its original charm—minus the historic pungent aroma that once preceded the train's arrival. Freight, passenger, and excursion trains operate year-round.

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