



2026 Ainsley House Holiday

In December 1925, the Ainsley family moved into their newly built home just in time for Christmas. For thirty-two years, citizens, organizations, and businesses have partnered with the Campbell Museums to decorate the historic Ainsley House for the holidays.

We invite you to help us celebrate the holidays by decorating a room in the historic Ainsley House in a theme inspired by the unique joy that the holiday season brings.

Our theme this year is “Hollywood Holiday.” *Each decorator will decorate their room inspired by a holiday movie.*

We encourage you to be creative, celebrate your business, and decorate in the **over-the-top** way you would never do at home! We mean it, go all out (*while still following the guidelines in this packet!*)

There is **no cost to participate** other than additional decorations you wish to provide for your room. The Ainsley House provides each decorator with a pre-lit Christmas tree (some rooms have multiple trees.) We also provide an assortment of decorations for decorators to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis.

Registration forms are due by September 23rd, but room selections and themes are first-come, first-served, so sign up early!

The registration form can be found at Campbellmuseums.com under the “What’s On” tab

If you have questions or would like to set up a time to see the house, please get in touch with our Collections Specialist, Anna Rosenbluth, at annar@campbellica.gov.

This packet contains:

1. Important Dates – make sure you are free for decoration and clean-up dates.
2. Benefits of Decorating
3. Guidelines for Decorating in a Historic Structure – Help us protect the house!

Important Dates

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Wednesday, September 23rd by 5pm.

PRELIMINARY DECORATION RESERVATION

Mon., October 5 - Fri., October 9, from 10:30am-6pm

Two boxes of museum decorations can be reserved prior to decorating to ensure you have key decor elements for your room.

An email will be sent out to sign-up for reservation appointments.

AD DEADLINE

Sunday, October 11th (no exceptions)

If you want, you can provide a 4" x 5", color ad for the Museum Visitor Holiday Program, which is handed out to all visitors. Email your ad to Anna Rosenbluth (annar@campbellca.gov). Ads are optional, but if provided, they should be in JPG, PNG, or PDF format.

DECORATING DATES

Thurs., November 5 – Sun., November 8, from 10:30am-6pm

An email will be sent out to sign-up for decorating appointments.

HOLIDAY TOURS

Thurs., November 12 – Sun., December 20, 2026

The house is open Thursday - Sunday from 11-3pm.

Evening Open House events will be held on December 17th and 20th

CLEAN-UP DATES

Thurs., January 7 – Sun., January 10, 10:30am-6pm

An email will be sent out to sign-up for cleaning appointments.

IMPORTANT: Clean-up is quick, but please be sure to return borrowed items to their proper boxes in the attic.

Emails for all sign-ups will be sent by:

Anna Rosenbluth annar@campbellca.gov

Please make sure they don't end up in your junk mail!

Benefits of Participation

1. By decorating a room in the Ainsley House, your business/organization will be seen by approximately 1,000 visitors. Signage crediting your business is provided in your decorated room.
2. If submitted, you will get a half-page ad in the Museum Visitor Holiday Program, given to all visitors. (Ads created by you)
3. Your organization/business may be included in marketing outreach by the Museum.
4. Decorators receive a *Decorator Pass* from November 12 - December 20 which provides free admission to visit the house, during normal operating hours, for you and another adult, as well as any children in your household. You will also receive 10% off at our Holiday Boutique, plus two free tickets to one of our Holiday Open House evening events, either Dec 17th or Dec 20th.
5. This is a great opportunity to become involved in the community, and to support the museum with their Holiday Fundraiser.
6. You can add this experience to your portfolio.
7. You will get an opportunity to work in a historic house museum.
8. This is your chance to go for it and maybe decorate a room in a way you might not decorate your own home.

Ainsley House Guidelines

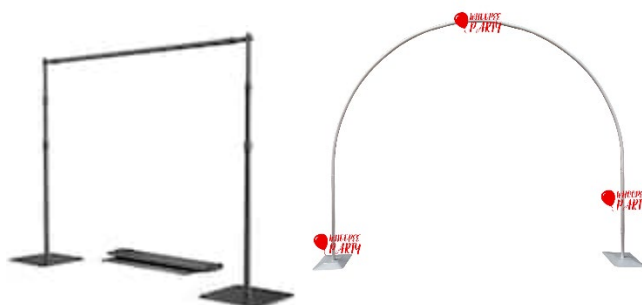
The Ainsley House, on the National Register of Historic Places, is a museum filled with historic furniture, finishings, and artifacts. It is important for designers to be sympathetic to the Museum environment and the fragile nature of the Ainsley House. These preliminary guidelines have been created to help maintain the historical integrity of the Ainsley House. If you have concerns, questions, or suggestions please contact Museum Collections Specialist, Anna Rosenbluth (408) 866-2759 or annar@campbellca.gov

1. All furniture and items in the Ainsley House are historical objects that are part of the Museum collection. Many are fragile. **DO NOT move anything yourself. Only Museum staff** is permitted to move objects or furniture.
2. **No food or drink is allowed in the house at any time.**
3. The Ainsley House will supply each room with pre-lit trees. Decorators are responsible for fluffing their tree.
4. Tinsel, glitter, sparkles, and loose artificial snow are **not allowed**.
5. Live plant, fruit, flower, and food materials are **not allowed**. Logs, branches, moss, pinecones etc. must be pre-approved by the Collections Specialist.
6. **No nails, screws, tape, adhesives, 3M strips, etc. of any kind may be used.** The Ainsley House will supply museum wax and fishing line that can be used in some rooms to secure decorations, with approval from the Museum Collections Specialist. Do not use wax on painted walls or ceilings. Wax can only support lightweight items.
7. Ensure home-made items are **completely DRY (paint/glue)** before bringing them inside.
8. Candles may be used as decorations, but they **cannot** be lit.
9. Please note that electrical outlets in the house are two-pronged and limited. We will provide adapters, extension cords, and power strips for decorator use. The Collections Specialist will assess use of cords to ensure fire safety.
10. No more than 3 battery powered items per room. Timer is the preferred method, remote control is second best, manual switch is least preferred. No matter which method, make sure we can easily access the battery packs and ensure batteries are easy to replace (no tools needed). *Decorator is responsible for providing extra batteries.*
11. Decorators are welcome and encouraged to bring their own decorations. The museum is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items on display. The Ainsley House has ample decorating decor on-hand for decorators to use. They are available on a first come, first served basis.
12. Any furniture decorators wish to bring in for use in their room decorations must be approved by the Museum Collections Specialist.
13. If you are using items on-sale from your place of business in your decorations, the price tags should not be prominently displayed.
14. You may put out business cards or small fliers.
15. Staff may adjust or add to your décor as they see fit to ensure safety and maximum holiday cheer!

Tips for Freestanding Backdrops

Since you cannot adhere items to the wall, here are some tips for how to successfully put up a backdrop, if desired.

- Use a photo backdrop frame or balloon arch frame.



- Avoid free standing poles. They require lots of weight at the base to keep them from tipping (like bricks or bags of sand. DO NOT USE WATER AS THE WEIGHT). The Museum does not have weights.
- Make cardboard cut outs. Just make sure they do not have paint or glue on the part that touches the floor or wall.



Examples of Past Rooms









