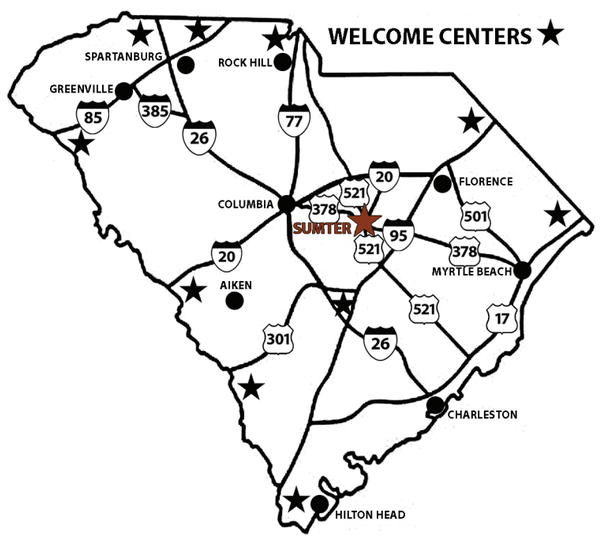
The Sumter Poinsettia Festival is named in honor of Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico. An avid botanist, Poinsett imported the plant that has become a symbol of the holiday season. His burial site is at the historic Church of the Holy Cross in Stateburg, South Carolina.

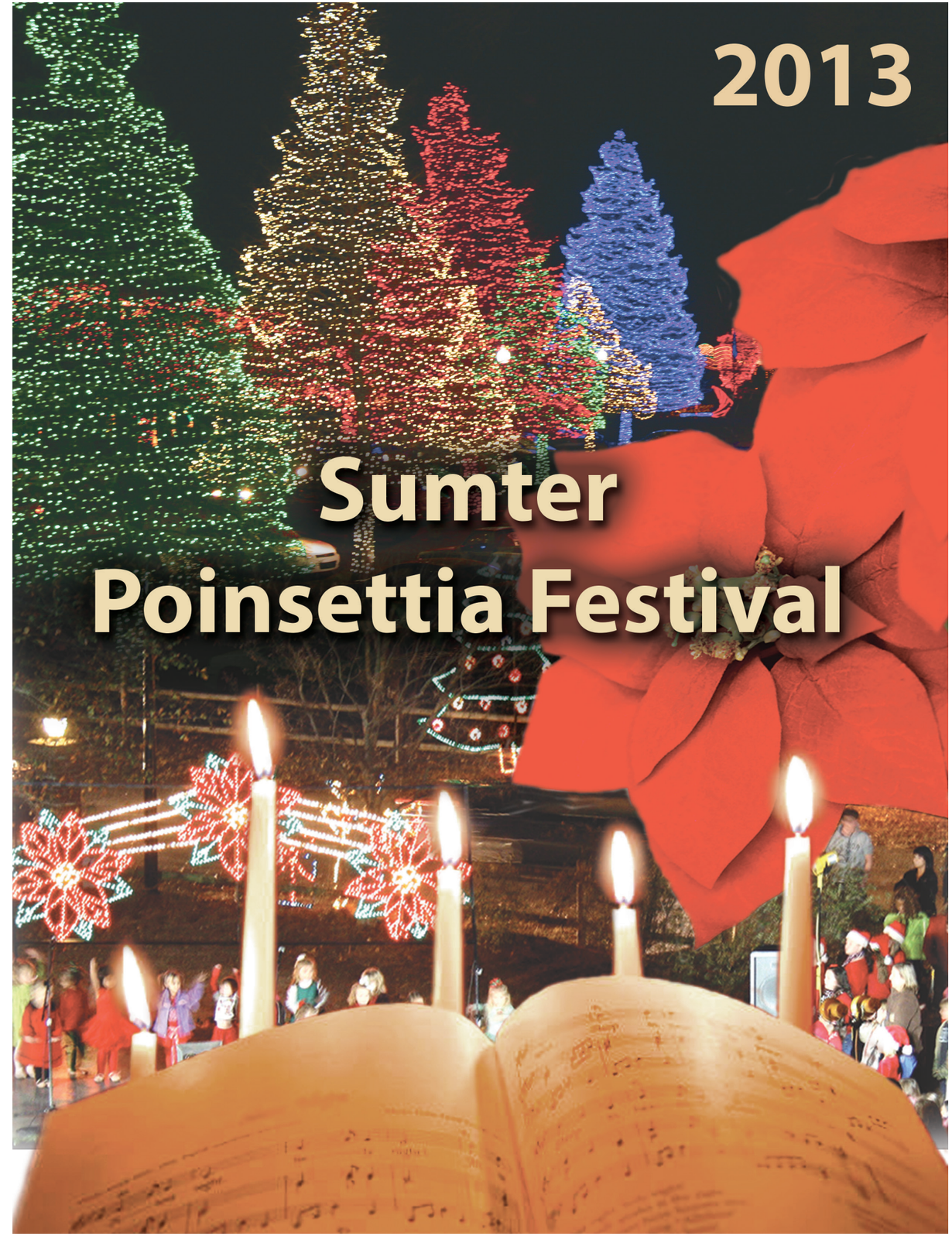
Stage performances...home tours...drivethrough nativity... the Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights...join the celebration as Sumter welcomes the season with the sights, sounds and tastes of the holidays!

A short drive from Interstates 95, 77 and 20, and within easy driving distance of South Carolina's major cities, experience the beauty and wonder of the holidays at the Sumter Poinsettia Festival.



Sumter
SOUTH CAROLINA

Swan Lake Visitors Center
(803) 436-2640
1-800-688-4748
www.sumtersc.gov



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 DEC Fantasy of Lights Opening Ceremony	**2** The Nutcracker Fantasy of Lights	**3** The Nutcracker Fantasy of Lights	**4** Fantasy of Lights	**5** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**6** Courthouse Christmas Tree Lighting Walk with St. Nick Santa's Village Santa's Express Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights Singing Christmas Tree	**7** Cram-A-Cruiser Holiday House Tea & Tour Silver Bells Craft Show Santa's Village Santa's Express Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights Singing Christmas Tree
8 Christmas Parade Silver Bells Craft Show Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights Singing Christmas Tree	**9** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**10** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**11** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**12** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**13** Living Christmas Story Santa's Village Santa's Express Jingle with the Arts A Christmas Story Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**14** Cram-A-Cruiser Living Christmas Story Santa's Village Santa's Express Jingle with the Arts Carolina Backcountry Christmas Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights
15 Sumter Civic Chorale Christmas Concert Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**16** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**17** The Polar Express Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**18** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**19** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**20** The Polar Express Santa's Village Santa's Express Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**21** Cram-A-Cruiser Santa's Village Santa's Express Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights
22 Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**23** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**24** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**25** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**26** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**27** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**28** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights
29 Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**30** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**31** Fantasy of Lights Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**1 JAN** Festival of Trees Circle if Lights	**2**	**3**	**4**

Carolina Backcountry Christmas
Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...the sound of music in the air... spiced cider and delicious treats! Sumter County Museum, 122 N. Washington St., Dec. 14 from 2-4 p.m. FREE. (803) 775-0908

Evening Optimist Club Christmas Parade
Holiday cheer parades down Sumter's Main Street in an array of song, dance, floats, beauty queens, marching bands and more! December 8. Lineup at 1 p.m.; parade starts at 2 p.m. FREE. (803) 983-3916.

A Christmas Story Classic Movie
Part of the Downtown Friday Nights Classic Movie Series. Follow Ralphie as he tries to convince his parents, teachers, and Santa that a Red Ryder B.B. gun really is the perfect gift for the 1940s. The movie starts at 7:00 PM and admission is $2.50. Preceded with 1/2 hour of traditional cartoons, starting at 6:30. Refreshments available at an additional cost. Sumter Opera House, 25 N. Main Street. (803) 436-2640

Sumter County Christmas Tree Lighting
Join the citizens of Sumter on the Courthouse lawn as Sumter County's spectacular community Christmas tree blazes into life. Live entertainment. Dec. 6 @ 4:30 p.m., immediately followed by "A Walk with St. Nick." 141 N. Main St. FREE

Cram-a-Cruiser Toy Drive
The Sumter Police Department wants to make sure there's lots of bright faces in town for the holidays through its Cram-A-Cruiser toy drive. The department, along with the Salvation Army and the help of Walmart on Broad Street and the city's three Walgreen's locations, will collect toys to be distributed to children in need. Dec. 7 @ Walgreens, Broad Street, Dec. 14 @ Walgreen's, McCray's Mill & Dec. 21 @ Walgreen's, Lafayette Street. (803) 436-2721 or (803) 436-2723

14th Annual Circle of Lights
Join Tuomey Hospice Services in honoring friends, family members and loved ones at the dedication of the 20-foot Circle of Lights Tree, Dec. 5 @ 5:30 p.m. 129 N. Washington St. Open to the public; FREE. (803) 774-9014

Fantasy of Lights
Holiday cheer arrives in Sumter with the opening of the annual Swan Lake Fantasy of Lights. For the entire month, the gardens come alive with a display of twinkling holiday imagery created by more than one million lights. The Pilot Club's floating Christmas tree is an annual favorite, along with Santa, angels and characters of song and story. One of South Carolina's largest Christmas light displays! Opening ceremonies, Dec. 1 @ 6 p.m. Light display open nightly through December 31. Sunday-Thursday from dusk until 9 p.m., Friday-Saturday until 10 p.m. FREE. Swan Lake Iris Gardens, 822 W. Liberty Street. (803) 436-2640 or toll-free, 1-800-688-4748.

12th Annual Festival of Trees
Watch Tuomey turn into a winter wonderland, with beautiful trees placed throughout the hospital campus. The Tuomey Foundation's annual Festival of Trees celebration benefits Tuomey Hospice Services. Through January 1. Open to the public; FREE. 129 N. Washington St. (803) 774-9014

64th Annual Holiday House Tea & Tour
A Sumter tradition, hosted by the Sumter Council of Garden Clubs. Tea served Dec. 7 from 3-5 p.m.; tours from 1-6 p.m. Alice Boyle Garden Center, 842 W. Liberty St. Tickets are $15 and available at the door, and at each home on the tour. (803) 481-7361.

Jingle with the Arts
The annual holiday performance by the Freed School of Performing Arts takes place at Patriot Hall. Dec. 13 @ 7 p.m. & Dec. 14 @ 3 and 7 p.m. Tickets $10 in advance, $12 at the door. (803) 436-2260

The Living Christmas Story
A trip back in time as Trinity United Methodist Church recreates 1st-century Bethlehem on the night Jesus Christ was born. Drive-through December 13-14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. FREE. (803) 773-9393

The Nutcracker
Patriot Hall hosts the beloved story of Clara and the Prince, performed by the Columbia City Ballet. 135 Haynsworth St. Dec. 2& 3 @ 7 p.m. Tickets $20 for adults, $15 for seniors and military, $12 for children 12 and under. (803) 799-7605

The Polar Express Pajama Party
A doubting boy boards a magical train that's headed to the North Pole and Santa Claus' home. Wear your pajamas, watch the movie, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Dec. 17 @ 9 a.m. & 1 p.m. and Dec. 20 @ 4 p.m. & 7 p.m. Sumter Opera House, 25 N. Main Street. $3 Ticket. (803) 436-2640

Santa's Village
The Heath Pavilion (at the end of Garden Street) opens up on weekends for visits from jolly ole Saint Nick and live entertainment from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights through December 21. Swan Lake Iris Gardens is located at 822 W. Liberty St. FREE (refreshments will be for sale by Evening Pilot Club) (803) 436-2640 or toll-free, 1-800-688-4748

Santa's Express
Drop-off for letters to Santa at the Heath Pavilion (at the end of Garden Street). From 6 to 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights through December 21. Swan Lake Iris Gardens is located at 822 W. Liberty St. FREE (803) 436-2640 or toll-free, 1-800-688-4748

3rd Annual Silver Bells Arts & Crafts Show
At least 40 crafters are expected to participate in this great sale of hand-crafted holiday items—as well as Santa Claus himself! Toys for Tots will also be on hand, and event attendees are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item for donation to the Sumter Food Drive. Santa will arrive at 1 p.m. on Saturday and stay until 4 p.m. to pose with those who have told him their holiday wishes. Five-by-seven prints will be available for $5.00 each. Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. & Dec. 8 from 1-4 p.m. Admission and parking are FREE. (803) 983-3235

The Singing Christmas Tree
First Baptist Church presents some of the community's most talented singers in this dramatic re-telling of the Christmas story. Dec. 6 & 7 @ 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. & Dec. 8 @ 7:30 p.m. 107 E. Liberty St. FREE; but tickets required. (803) 773-3732

Sumter Civic Chorale Christmas Concert
The Sumter Civic Chorale brings in the holiday season with its annual program of Christmas favorites at Patriot Hall. Dec. 15 @ 3 p.m. 135 Haynsworth St. FREE. (803) 436-2260

A Walk with St. Nick
The Sumter County Recreation Department hosts the annual stroll with Saint Nicholas, followed by refreshments and storytelling at the Sumter County Library. For children of all ages! Dec. 6 @ 5:30 p.m. (immediately following the Christmas Tree Lighting). 141 N. Main St. FREE. (803) 436-2248