

News from the City Hall

Information

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Nuremberg Christkindlesmarkt 2024: The Nuremberg Christkind

“You men and women, who once were children too,
You little ones whose life has just begun,
Each of you who is joyful today, but tomorrow must struggle:
Listen and hear what the Christkind has to say!”

These are the first words of the prologue with which the Nuremberg Christkind opens “its” market each year on Friday before the first Sunday in Advent. On 29 November 2024, at 5:30 p.m., the Nuremberg Christkind Nelli Lunkenheimer, the 28th to be chosen, will recite these lines to kick off the world-famous Christkindlesmarkt.

The opening ceremony is one of the main tasks of the Nuremberg Christkind. The event has remained the same for decades. The text of the prologue was changed slightly in the 1950s and 1960s. In essence, the poem reflects the situation and surroundings of the market in 1948, as the first Christmas Market after World War II took place in Nuremberg. The prologue was written by playwright Friedrich Bröger (1912-1973), son of the Nuremberg poet Karl Bröger.

In the weeks before Christmas, the Christkind is kept busy with appearances at the market and Children’s Christmas Market. Four times a week, Tuesday through Friday, visitors can meet the Christkind at the Children’s Christmas Market on Hans-Sachs-Platz (from 2:30 to 3 p.m.) and at the Christkindlesmarkt on the Main Market Square (from 3 to 3:45 p.m.). The calendar is filled with an additional 150 visits to charities and other social organizations. Appearances at homes for the aged, kindergartens, homes for the disabled and hospitals help spread the joy of



Christmas. Just before Christmas Eve, the Christkind brings gifts to the young patients in Nuremberg's children's hospital. Many interviews and TV appearances are also part of the job, as well as representing Nuremberg at Christmas markets in other cities.

While Nuremberg uses the slogan "Where the Christkind is at Home" to promote the city's role during the Christmas season, it is a firm principle that the figure of the Nuremberg Christkind not be used for commercial marketing. Appearances are focused on charitable activities and to promote friendly ties with other cities. The Nuremberg Christkind is known as far away as the USA. The Christmas Markets in Baltimore and Philadelphia will be opened this year by the previous Christkind, Teresa Windschall.

Since 1969, the Nuremberg Christkind has been elected every two years. Beginning in 1948, the role was played by the Nuremberg actress Sofie Keeser; in the 1960s, the actress Irene Brunner assumed the part. The first elected Christkind was Gabriele Bergmann. Nelli Lunkenheimer is the Christkind for 2023 and 2024.

To select a new Christkind, local media invite young women from Nuremberg to apply for this voluntary post with a picture and resume. If possible, they should be born in Nuremberg or have lived here a long time. They also must be between 16 and 19 years old, at least 160 centimeters tall, not afraid of heights and ready for any sort of weather.

Pictures and a brief summary of the qualifications of the 12 best candidates appear in local newspapers and the internet, giving readers the opportunity to vote for their favorite. The six candidates with the most votes then appear in front of a jury, which can quiz them about their knowledge of Nuremberg and choose the winner. The Christkind serves for two years.

