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### Make-A-Wish Child Chosen For Ogden's Christmas Village Gala

**November 10, 2022 - Ogden, UT** – Ogden's Holiday Electric Light Parade and Gala will feature someone special this year. This year's Grand Marshal who is selected through the Make-A-Wish Foundation is Jack Fronk. In his young life, Jack has experienced hardships with his health, but it hasn't stopped him from enjoying life. Jack and his family are excited to have him honored as this year's Grand Marshal.

Ashley Bockwoldt, Ogden City's Event Coordinator, said, "It's such an honor to host a Make-A-Wish child every year as the Grand Marshal, to see this night through their eyes is truly special. I'm humbled by these kids that have been challenged most of their short life's, they never wear any of that fear, sadness, or the hardships on their sleeve. They always show up with a big smile, excited and so happy. That is what is so magical about this night, letting kids be kids, just as it should be."

Each year, generous businesses offer their support to help make the event special for the child being honored. For the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Admiral Beverage Corporation (Pepsi) will decorate the honorary float that Jack and his family will be on. Each year the theme of the float is a surprise and tailored to each child. A special thank you goes out to local businesses, Minky Couture, Dillard's, and Ogden City for the wonderful gifts donated to Jack and his family during this special event.

A little bit about Jack and what he is going through from his mom, Shawni. Jack is a vivacious 8-year-old who loves all things dinosaurs, he loves playing with friends and has cystic fibrosis. Jack was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when he was only 6 weeks old. It is a genetic disease without a cure. The disease causes his body to produce thick, sticky mucus that causes chronic lung infections, GI issues, and in Jack's case, liver disease. For him to stay healthy he does multiple breathing treatments a day, and even more, when he is sick. He has had multiple stays at the hospital, a handful of surgeries, a feeding tube, and many doctor visits.

Jack doesn't know life without cystic fibrosis. But even with all the extra things he must do each day, he is a super happy kid! He loves to go swimming, play video games, and make everyone around him laugh all the while he is having treatment done. His favorite place in the world is to be at Disneyland and of course all things Disney. His smile always lights up a room wherever he goes.

The holiday parade will start at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. The parade begins on Washington Blvd. at 22nd and will continue south to 27th Street. The Christmas Village Opening Gala will start at 6:30 p.m. immediately following the parade. The ceremony is held annually on the Ogden Amphitheater Stage with Jack and his family. Santa will be there with Jack to turn on the official light switch kicking off the

Christmas Village 2022 season. The opening gala will be closed out by a crowd-thrilling fireworks show over the illuminated Christmas Village.

For entertainment, updates follow

IG – the\_corner\_ogden & ogdenamphitheater

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### **About Ogden Amphitheater**

The facility and employees strive to offer each guest a first-class experience when visiting. Whether you are an event producer, a performing artist, or a guest in the audience we assure that you will feel at home. With over 90 events each year ranging from major concerts to private weddings, the Amphitheater staff help make your performance a success. The Arts, Culture, and Events team produces many signature events and welcomes artists to apply through our online artist application. We embrace diverse community programming and encourage everyone to consider utilizing this gem of a venue when planning their next event.

PHOTO OF Jack and his family

