

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Christmas Lights Contest Aims To Reignite Old Tradition

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ST. CROIX -- There was a time when lights lit up the nights during the Christmas season here. Residents would make an event out of driving around the island and starring in amazement at homes embellished with colorful radiance. It was part of what brought home the Christmas feeling season to the Virgin Islands, but those days are long gone, replaced with the ever present reminder of a Water and Power Authority electric bill that most simply could not afford.

But WAPA's charge for electricity has [decreased by about 50 percent](#); a result of the continuing [decline in oil prices on world markets](#). The St. Croix Foundation recognizes this and is hoping to reignite the mood that once engulfed this island, at least in part, by

bringing back its "Believe Christmas Lights Contest".

Judging will take place during the weekends of December 11-13 and December 18-20, according to a press release the Foundation issued last Thursday. The release also came with some competition rules, including incorporating the word, "BELIEVE", and reflecting Virgin Islands culture. Decorations must also be "creative and eye-catching," and should be visible from the street.

Competitors stand to win cash prizes ranging from \$100-\$400, according to the release. Interested parties should contact the group at 340.773.9898 for an entry form, which must be submitted by December 8. Results will be released on December 30.

According to the release, the Believe Christmas Lights Contest is made possible through partnerships between the St. Croix Foundation, TEAM Consulting, the Rotary Club of St. Croix Mid Isle, and Safari Bus. Sponsors include WAPA, Home Depot, Caribbean Cooling, and Quality Auto Parts.