

21st Annual Wilmington Holiday Parade

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Sponsored by the City of Wilmington and Cumulus Media

Parade will start promptly at **6:00 pm** at N. Front St. and Walnut St. and travel south on Front St. to Church St.

Official Parade Guidelines

Guidelines include specific category information. All entries are expected to follow all that apply.

General Information – All entries must be decorated and illuminated

Lineup Info: After the parade entry deadline of November 25, you will be provided final parade entry packets with staging location, lineup information and additional parade information. Parade numbers will not be issued this year; units will be placed in line as they arrive.

Staging Time: The staging area will be located at Cape Fear Community College Student Lot #2 and will be open at 2:30 pm to begin lineup for the parade. All units must arrive for lineup no later than 5:00 pm.

Weather: The parade will be held rain or shine, however, in the event of extreme weather which may affect the safety of parade participants, spectators and staff as determined by city officials, the parade will be cancelled with no rain date.

Throwing of Items: Materials of any sort (i.e., candy, toys, Frisbees, etc.) will NOT be permitted to be THROWN from floats or vehicles, under any circumstances per City code. This is due to potential physical injury, danger, liability, and littering problems. Materials are to be handed out by walking units only. Candy must be in the original wrappers. Violation of this rule will result in immediate removal of that unit from the parade and award disqualification.

Identification: Units must be clearly identified by group name. This information should be displayed on your unit or carried by a walker. In the case of floats or motorized units, name identification must be on both sides. Bands, marching and animal units must provide name identification in the front.

Santa Claus: The “real” Santa will appear at the end of the parade; no costumed Santa Claus’ are permitted.

The parade’s purpose is to entertain. Entries merely advertising a business or service will not be allowed to participate. Failure to comply with instructions could result in removal from the parade. The parade is a family-oriented event and groups may be refused entry at the discretion of parade organizers.

Parade Route Information

The parade will begin at N. Front and Walnut St. traveling south on Front St. ending at Church Street. **The parade will not start and end in the same area which means you will need to coordinate with your group for pickup at the end of the parade.** City staff will be on site directing parade entries down Castle St. and/or Church St. and onto Surry St. to exit them off the parade route for safety. Final resting/holding point of the parade will be along Surry St. for pickups. Parade route map attached.

Awards Information

All parade entries are eligible for prizes. A panel of guest judges will make their selections for winners of the categories below after the parade with winners announced and notified the following day. Entries will be judged on

overall presentation including appearance, image & sound, use of decorations/lights, creativity, originality, and precision.

- **Best Commercial/Business Entry:** \$100.00 / Plaque
- **Best Non-Commercial Entry:** \$100.00 / Plaque
- **Best Band:** \$100.00/Plaque

Specific Category Information

All entries please read: Units may not stop to perform at any time during the parade. Forward motion must continue at all times. Entries that stop to perform may be taken out of the route and will not be allowed to participate in the parade in future years. This is done to avoid gaps in the parade route.

Float

A decorated and lighted structure that is self-propelled or pulled by a motor vehicle. All visible sides must be completely covered with decorations. Floats must be constructed and decorated so that each side is equally attractive and interesting. Max dimensions for floats are 12.5 feet in width and 13 feet in height.

- Should have a minimum of 2000 miniature lights (or large bulb equivalent) per float.
- Walkers must be able to keep up with their float and the parade flow.
- Walkers should wear at least one strand of miniature lights or holiday decorations.
- Drivers of towed vehicles must be able to show proof of a driver's license & insurance.

Band

A group that marches while playing musical instruments. The number of participants is not limited, but everyone marching should be in uniform. Bands are requested to play holiday music during the entire parade.

- Should try to be illuminated in some way, miniature light necklaces, noses, etc.
- Are expected to play the entire parade route, seasonal music is encouraged.
- Will always maintain forward motion unless parade stops in front of you.

Vehicles

All vehicles must be decorated and illuminated. Motor vehicle clubs (including motorcycle groups) will be permitted no more than ten vehicles. (This category includes Queen/King entries).

- Cars/trucks should have a minimum of 800 miniature lights (or large bulb equivalent) per vehicle.
- Motorcycles/bicycles should illuminate either vehicle or rider in some manner.
- Drivers of all vehicles must be able to show proof of a driver's license & insurance.
- Do not close your generator in the trunk of an auto.
- Name of sponsor/business may be noted but not to detract from theme.

Walking

Includes marching units, performing units, individuals, and groups, other than a band, that march/walk the parade route on foot.

- Except for those in official uniform (military, police, precision teams, etc.), walkers must be illuminated in some manner.
- Anyone on foot must be at least 10 years of age, younger participants must ride.

Animal

An entry that includes animals. Type and number of animals must be indicated on application. Animals must wear holiday decorations and be always under handler's control.

- Must be always under the control of a handler.
- Treatment of animals must conform to ASPCA guidelines.
- Handlers of all animals are responsible for cleaning up any waste.

Questions? Contact the Parks and Recreation office at (910) 772-4177 or visit www.wilmingtonrecreation.com