

Columbus Christmas Parade 2025

“Wrapped in Christmas Magic”

Monday, December 7, 2026 at 7:00pm

Rain or Shine!



Join us as we plan this year's Columbus Christmas Parade!

Please complete the attached application and liability release and return to
Main Street Columbus, P.O. Box 1062, Columbus, MS 39703

OR Email to info@columbusmainstreet.com

OR Deliver to our office at 107 5th Street North, Downtown Columbus (please call first).

Questions should be directed to Main Street Columbus, 662-328-6305.



Please submit your completed application with entry fee no later than MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH! Entries received after November 9, 2026 WILL BE charged a late fee of \$20. The entry fee can be paid by check, cash, credit card, or money order. Credit cards have a credit card fee.

STAGING AREA: Hitching Lot Farmers' Market (located at 2nd Avenue and 2nd Street North) and surrounding streets.

ENTRANCE ONLY AT THE CORNER OF 2ND STREET & 2ND AVENUE FROM HWY.

PARADE ROUTE: Parade begins and ends at the Hitching Lot Farmers' Market. Details will be made available in your acceptance packet following registration.

Acceptance of entries will be acknowledged with a complete information package which you can expect to receive the last week of November. This package will include transportation instructions, suggested drop off and pick up points and your access to the line-up.

REMEMBER! The Columbus Christmas Parade is for the enjoyment of adults and children of all ages. We ask that you help us enhance our Christmas Parade by following the theme and being as creative as possible. Your entry must be festively decorated according to this year's theme and Christmas music is requested as part of your entry. Your radio can be tuned to 93.3 if you do not have music available.

Acceptance of entry will be based on the discretion of the Main Street Columbus office
& The Volunteer Parade Committee.

For the entertainment and enjoyment of those watching the parade, all participants should act, dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the season. Smiles and waves are mandatory!

Failure to comply will result in removal from the parade with no refund given.



General Rules and Guidelines

Please read carefully as you will be expected to comply with all guidelines listed below.

There is only ONE Santa - Please DO NOT include any kind of Santa in your entry.

- ★ Floats and vehicles MUST have seasonal and themed decorations. Undecorated entries will be removed from the parade line-up and application fees will be forfeited. Vehicles will be inspected at the check-in/entry point.
- ★ Make sure all entries are identified with signage if you want to be judged. Judges MUST be able to see your name clearly on your entry. Professional lettered signs are required (no hand written signs will be accepted). Please help us provide a professional parade appearance with proper signage.
- ★ Individuals riding on a float must stay within 18 inches of the edge of a float unless the float has a railing.
- ★ People walking with a float must stay at least 6 feet from the side of a float.
- ★ **Please note: Due to the beautiful string lights on 5th Street and a bridge that is included on the route, all entries MUST BE LESS THAN 13 FEET IN HEIGHT. You will be responsible for damages to the lights, property, or to anyone on your entry if you exceed the height maximum.**
- ★ Floats and vehicles must be fully decorated upon arrival at the staging area.
- ★ Walking Groups must be active (Caroling, Baton Twirling, Juggling, Marching, Dancing While Moving Forward, Etc.) Please do NOT stop along the parade route to perform. Groups must MOVE at all times. The deposit will be forfeited if a group stops on the parade route and the group may not be allowed to participate in future parades.
- ★ Each entry must have a designated responsible adult present. The group and/or contact person will be responsible and held accountable for all individuals associated with your entry.
- ★ NO loud shocking noises, bull horns, explosives, or other offensive noises. All generators used must not be loud.
- ★ NO motorcycles or vehicles are allowed to perform any type of stunts.
- ★ NO smoking, vaping, or alcoholic beverages on any entries.
- ★ No one is to get on or off of a float once the parade is moving. This also applies should the parade stop on the route.
- ★ Nothing is to be thrown into the crowd. This means candy, beads, stickers, etc. However, candy may be distributed and carted in a small wagon.
- ★ No pamphlets or flyers are to be handed out. No political signage is allowed.
- ★ The Columbus Christmas Parade Committee reserves the right to refuse any entrant he/she deems to be unsafe, does not conform to the theme, arrives late, has blatant advertising or is not adhering to parade rules. There are no refunds given after you have been accepted in the parade.
- ★ Playing of music is not permitted in the staging area - testing only! Only Christmas music is allowed to be played in the parade, unless written authorization has been provided by Main Street Columbus. Please indicate this request on your application.
- ★ Your entry must be self-sufficient and you will be responsible to acquire your own float or flatbed. Any mechanical failures or breakdowns are your responsibility.
- ★ NO horses will be allowed to walk in the parade except as provided by the organizer.
- ★ If you are a multiple entry group and wish to ride together in the parade, you must arrive together. Line-up is in the order you arrive!
- ★ Parents/guardians are expected to escort their children to and from their group's float. Volunteers are not responsible for doing so. Volunteers are here to help, but cannot be expected to know where all floats are located in the line-up!

Failure to comply will result in removal from the parade with no refund given.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

I/We accept the rules for participating in the Columbus Christmas Parade and Main Street Columbus is hereby released from all manner of actions, which may result from our participation in the 2026 Columbus Christmas Parade. I/We grant to Main Street Columbus, Inc., and its representatives and employees the right to take photographs of me and my property in connection with the Columbus Christmas Parade. I agree that Main Street Columbus may use such photographs/videos of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, web content and social media.

Authorizing Person (please print) _____ Signature _____
Organization/Business _____
Date _____

Please return this form with your application for the parade.

Main Street Columbus, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any application based on space limitations or past refusal of entry to abide by parade rules and guidelines. Every entry will be considered on its own merit. Blatant Commercial Advertising is not permitted. Please make sure your entry is appropriate for the parade.

Parade Sponsor Form



Name of Participating Group:		
Name of Contact Person:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Home Phone #:		Work #:
Cell Phone # at Parade Site:		
E-Mail Address:		Website:
Type of Parade Entry (Check One): Float___ Trailer___ Walking Group___ Car/Truck___		
Approximate # of participants:	Adults:	Children:
Approximate length of entry (in feet):		
Will you have amplified music? Yes___ No___ If yes, please describe		
Does it matter if you are near a band? Yes___ No___		
Describe how your entry will be festively decorated:		

Please note: Due to the beautiful string lights on 5th Street and a bridge that is included in the route, all entries MUST BE LESS THAN 13 FEET IN HEIGHT. You will be responsible for damages to the lights, property, or to anyone on your entry if you exceed the height maximum.

All entries MUST be decorated with the theme
“Wrapped in Christmas Magic”
Parade Sponsorship: \$300

Includes:

One non-competitive entry in parade (decorated in accordance with official guidelines)
Acknowledgement on all parade media (posters, TV, newspapers, social media, etc.)



Parade Application Form

Name of Participating Group:		
Name of Contact Person:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Home Phone #:		Work #:
Cell Phone # at Parade Site:		
E-Mail Address:		Website:
Type of Parade Entry (Check One): Float___ Trailer___ Walking Group___ Car/Truck___		
Approximate # of participants:	Adults:	Children:
Approximate length of entry (in feet):		
Will you have amplified music? Yes___ No___ If yes, please describe		
Does it matter if you are near a band? Yes___ No___		
Describe how your entry will be festively decorated:		

Please note: Due to the beautiful string lights on 5th Street and a bridge that is included in the route, all entries MUST BE LESS THAN 13 FEET IN HEIGHT. You will be responsible for damages to the lights, property, or to anyone on your entry if you exceed the height maximum.

Entry Fees (Please circle appropriate category)

All entries MUST be decorated with the theme.

No business advertising on entry (Please see attached Parade Sponsorship Form).

Parade Entry Fees

If you want to be judged, your entry MUST arrive between 4:15-5:00pm and be set up for the judging which begins promptly at 5:30pm. Anyone arriving after 5:00pm will not be eligible for judging.

If you are late, you will NOT be judged!

Please circle your entries category:

Floats - \$50.00 per entry

Non-Profit Floats - \$35.00 per entry

Car/Pick-up Truck - \$40.00 per entry

Non-Profit Car/Pick-up Truck - \$30.00 per entry

Walking Groups - \$35.00 (**Dance teams will pay a \$100 refundable deposit with their fee - See Rules**)

Beauty Queens, Pageant Winners, Personalities - \$75.00 per entry

IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR ENTRY TO BE JUDGED Please arrive between 5:15-6:00pm.