Welcome to PARA's
West Alabama Christmas Parade

Since 1976 The Largest Christmas Parade in Alabama

Rules for Parade Participation

GENERAL INFORMATION

- PARA is honored to present this beloved holiday tradition which builds memories that last a lifetime and helps make our community a great place to live. Our mission is to enrich our community through exciting recreational and cultural opportunities.
- By submitting an application, all participants are deemed as having agreed to abide by the following parade rules and direction of PARA officials and first responders. The person making application for his/her group is responsible for sharing information with all participants in his/her group.
- PARA officials reserve the right to withdraw any unit of which decoration, performance or costume does not meet parade rules and regulations or conform to the standards of reasonable public taste and fit the parade theme.
- Registration is October 15-November 15, annually.
- A Parade Meeting is held the Monday before the Parade and is an excellent time to ask questions and learn about correct procedures.

PARADE ROUTE AND LINE UP PROCEDURE

- The route for the Parade will begin at 11th Street and Greensboro Avenue. The route will travel north on Greensboro Avenue and turn east to University Blvd. and end at 19th Avenue. This is approximately one mile. Suggested turn out is made by turning north on Queen City Avenue to depart Parade traffic. Please refer to the official Parade map.
- Suggested line up time is between 4-5 p.m. Enter your assigned street via Queen City Avenue and proceed toward Greensboro Avenue. It is important that you line up on the assigned street location. PARA staff will be on site to assist.
- A specific place in the parade line up cannot be promised. Please follow directions from PARA officials to guide your entrance onto the parade route.
- Groups must have parade numbers attached to their (lead) vehicle windshield to participate. Those not on the official roster are not allowed to participate.

PARADE FLOW

- Entries must keep to a slow, even pace and are <u>not allowed to stop at any time</u> along the Parade route to perform or for any reason. The only exception is when directed by PARA officials or first responders or in situation of an unsafe condition.
- Please be aware of gaps in front of your group and help keep the parade moving smoothly and evenly.

PARADE CONDUCT

- Good sportsmanship and integrity in behavior and choreography of all participants should be appropriate and entertaining for all ages, all audience members and reasonable standards of public taste.
- Material that could be considered vulgar or suggestive, choreography and/or dance music is not allowed and is defined as any movement or choreography, offensive, or obscene action, gesture, language or signage displayed during the parade.

DECORATIONS

- Decorations are a key component of the Parade event. ALL PARADE ENTRIES SHALL BE DECORATED IN A MANNER THAT REFLECTS THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AND/OR THEME OF THE PARADE. This includes emergency vehicles. Floats and vehicle entries must be well decorated on at least three sides with holiday decorations such as garland, tinsel, wreaths, lights, and other festive trimmings. Christmas or holiday music (if utilized) is preferred.
- PARA officials will be on hand to assist you to the parade route and have authority to remove any entry from the parade if not sufficiently decorated.
- If you have questions about your decorations, please contact PARA in advance of parade day.

SAFETY

- All drivers of vehicles must abide by Alabama state laws.
- THROWING, GIVING OR HANDING OUT CANDY - OR ANY ITEM - IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.
- An Arm Band ID for youth age under 16 is provided by PARA free of charge. It is suggested to include name and an onsite contact phone number written in a Sharpie or similar type permanent ink pen. Arm bands will be available at the Parade Meeting.
- Any parade entry deemed to be unsafe to spectators or participants by parade officials will be removed from the parade line up.
- Lost and Found will be located at the PARA Building located at 614 Greensboro Avenue.
- The City of Tuscaloosa's Intermodal Facility offers free parking and is located on the corner of 7th Street and 23rd Avenue. The entrance is located on 7th Street. This parking deck serves as an excellent central meeting point for your group.

SANTA

- No participant may be dressed as Santa Claus. The ONLY Santa Claus allowed in the parade will be on PARA's float at the end of the parade.

ENTRY SIZES/REQUIREMENTS

- Floats may not exceed 16 feet in height and must be at least 6 feet in length
- Floats and vehicles must be pulled by a moving object and may not be self-propelled.
- Each official entry is limited to no more than three vehicles.
- Motorcycle groups are no longer allowed beginning with the 2015 parade.

BANDS/MARCHING GROUPS

- Christmas or holiday music is preferred.
- Large groups and marching groups are encouraged to meet at a pre-determined location both before and after the parade for safety and to encourage safety and eliminate confusion and line-up congestion.
- Bands - please see additional info regarding staging area and line up.

COMPETITION/JUDGING

- Entries that choose to participate in the competition will be judged according to one (1) category as selected on the entry form.
- Entries are judged on overall appearance, originality, music presentation, workmanship and use of theme and/or costumes. Trophies will be awarded in each category along with one (1) Best of Show.
- Judging will take place during the parade from the PARA Building. The decision of the judges is final. Awards will be announced immediately following the parade in social and news media.
- Trophies may be picked up at the PARA Building on the day after the Parade. The PARA Building is located at 614 Greensboro Avenue and open Monday – Friday at 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Trophies not claimed within 90 days will be forfeited back to PARA.

FEES/CANCELLATIONS

- The Parade will go on rain or shine unless there is a situation of immediate inclement weather. Parade entry fees are non-refundable.
- If you need to cancel your entry, notify PARA at 562-3220 as soon as possible.

Thank you for participating in PARA's West Alabama Christmas Parade!
Questions? Phone 205-562-3220 or mailto:bbooker@tcpara.org

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