

Chester Christmas Parade Entry Rules

WELCOME! All those interested in participating in the Chester Christmas Parade must fully complete the entry form and submit it to the parade committee by the filing deadline, along with proof of float rental. You will be responsible for rental of the float. The parade committee will determine whether entrants are eligible to participate based on the criteria set forth below. Please enjoy the parade in the spirit of the season and remember to be safe.

- I. Eligibility Criteria** Only entries determined by the parade committee that satisfy all of the following criteria will be permitted to participate in the parade. All decisions of the parade committee are final. The criteria are:
- A. Entrants must specify a single responsible person for their entry and participants.
 - B. Entrants must have timely submitted a complete entry form & proof of float rental to the parade committee and provided all other information requested by the parade committee.
 - C. Entries must display or represent the Christmas spirit and parade theme.
 - D. Entries should actively involve people where possible. Floats without people are permitted where they meet all other criteria.
 - E. Floats and similar units:
 - Note 1.** Must be pulled, driven or built around a motorized vehicle, tractors or draft animals.
 - Note 2.** Must be built and securely affixed to a flatbed or trailer frame.
 - Note 3.** Must be capable of being safely pulled or driven through the parade route.
 - Note 4.** May contain mechanical displays.
 - F. Entrants that include live animals **MUST** have at least one person assigned to follow the animal and properly remove any animal waste. Entrants with live animals who do not have an assigned “pooper scooper” present prior to the start of and at all times during the parade will be pulled out of the parade lineup.
 - G. Floats should be built by the entrant or commercial floats may be reserved by contacting the following companies:
 - www.kirbyparadefloats.com
 - www.clinefloats.com
 - www.paradefloatsbyallen.com
- II. Parade Rules** All participants must comply with the following parade rules during the parade and related events. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from any awards or prizes and ejection from the parade. The rules are:
- A. Obscene or otherwise offensive conduct not suitable for family audience is prohibited.
 - B. All entries and participants must follow the direction of parade officials.
 - C. All entries and participants must stage in the designated staging area at the Chester Fair Grounds, follow the official parade route, and end at the designated end of the parade established by the parade committee.
 - D. Participants may not join or leave an entry or get on or off a float or similar unit once the entry has started down the parade route.
 - E. Participants shall not move ahead of the entry in front of them, either before or during the parade.
 - F. Wrapped, store bought candy may be handed out to the parade audience. The distribution of handouts (such as brochures, coupons, and cards) to the parade audience is prohibited. These materials end up on the streets and sidewalks creating a trash problem for Chester’s Department of Public Works.
 - G. Entrants with live animals are responsible for properly cleaning up animal waste during the parade. Animal waste creates an unwanted nuisance for parade participants.
 - H. **You may not drive into the staging area to drop off children.** You must park outside the area and walk them to their entry.
 - I. Motorcycles, vans, ATV vehicles and similar off-road vehicles (other than farm tractors) are prohibited in the parade.

J. No parade unit will be allowed in the parade line-up without a properly completed entry form RECEIVED by the deadline noted on the official entry form (and on the parade Information page). Please contact us at least one week prior to the date of the parade if you need to delete your entry. Any person/organization with two years of "no shows" will result in permanent suspension from the Chester Christmas Parade.

K. Each parade unit must be decorated in the spirit of Christmas (examples: Red ribbons, tinsel, wreaths, bunting, etc.). **ALL** parade units are asked to provide a "lighted unit" during judging and the parade if they can. Christmas lights can be battery operated or powered via generator (see Notes 1 and 2 for additional information).

Note 1. If a generator is being used to provide power to run the lights on the entry, 16/3 AWG (min size) power cords are required, and please be sure to have extra fuel in an approved container on your float or towing vehicle. An approved 5-pound ABC fire extinguisher will be required. A Fire Marshall will inspect all entries using a generator during the lineup. Those not complying with this safety precaution will not be allowed in the parade. For safety reasons, do not attempt to refuel your float while it is in motion or during the parade itself - refueling is permissible only before the start of the parade.

Note 2. An approved 5-pound ABC fire extinguisher is required for any entry using gasoline or other flammable substance.

L. **NO** parade unit (or parts thereof) will be allowed to provide or display a **live Santa Claus** during the parade. The Christmas Parade committee will provide the Santa Claus for this special event.

M. Please do not fall behind. Maintain the same spacing behind the unit in front of you as you had when you were released from the parade formation site. If your unit stops to perform, maximum time should be 2 minutes.

N. **COMMERCIAL FLOAT SPONSORS** must provide float personnel in appropriate holiday dress, with a maximum of 12 riders on a full float.

