50th Annual West Alabama Christmas Parade
2026 THEME: Christmas Through the Decades

The Largest Christmas Parade in Alabama — Established 1976

RULES & POLICIES 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 submitting for his/her group is responsible for sharing information and obtaining waivers from all participants.

PARA officials reserve the right to withdraw any unit of which decoration, costume or performance does not meet parade rules and regulations or conform to the standards of reasonable public taste and/or fit the parade theme.

Registration is open through November 16, 2026 at 11:59PM. A Parade Participant Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 5:45PM at the Belk Activity Center. Line-up street assignments and judged entry numbers will be provided at the meeting. This is an excellent time to ask questions and learn about correct procedures. Please make it a priority to attend.

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 19th Avenue to depart Parade traffic. (NOTE - Large vehicles DO NOT turn on Queen City, as there is a round-about where you'll get stuck!) 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 identifier signage (minimum 3x2' size) visible from the front — participant(s) to carry for walking groups or attached to (lead) vehicle windshield to participate. Judged entries MUST also have assigned number displayed on driver side window (for vehicles) and to the left front (for others).

Those not on the official roster are not allowed to participate.
Must be registered by Nov. 16th deadline.

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 must be decorated in a manner that reflects the holiday spirit and should relate to the 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. Lights/illumination encouraged.

Political campaigning is NOT permitted.

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.
NO THROWING, NO foam, GIVING OR HANDING OUT CANDY - OR ANY ITEM - 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 intimidating or unsafe to spectators or participants by parade officials will be removed from the parade line up.

Trailers with minors MUST have adult walkers every 6-8FT for safety/supervision. (1 adult per every 6 children.) NO sitting on edge — maintain 2' clearance of all edges. Rails preferred. NO exposed wheel

LOST AND FOUND IS LOCATED AT 2501 7TH ST, TUSCALOOSA.

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.

ENTRY REGULATIONS

- Walking, driving, dancing, and general merriment allowed. Smoking, alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, firearms, mopeds, scooters, mini-bikes, Foam, segways, and 4- wheelers are prohibited.

- Equestrian units may not be left unattended, and MUST be followed by a self-provided clean up crew or wear a manure bag. Horses must line up on their assigned street due to light sensitivity.

- Children must have adult supervision before, during and at the end of the parade. There MUST be at least one adult for every six children riding on a float.

- All vehicle operators must possess a valid driver's license and registration for the vehicle.

FLOATS

- Towed float trailers can be no longer than 23 feet long and flatbed trailers no longer than 29 feet. Floats shall be no more than 13 feet high from the ground and 9 feet wide.
- Participants SHALL NOT get on or off moving floats and walking participants SHALL NOT retrieve articles from floats.
- Portable generators must be securely mounted. Floats should be constructed with fire-retardant materials and must carry an all-purpose type ABC, 5-lb. fire extinguisher within reach. No open flames are permitted.
- At least one adult, other than the driver, must supervise children riding on vehicles and have a reasonable means of immediate communication with the driver. There shall not be less than one adult per every 6 children and sufficient to ensure each child is visible to a supervising adult.
- All participants on floats must be seated with a substantial barrier around them; sitting on the edge of the vehicle/float with arms and legs hanging off is prohibited.
- Standing participants should wear a safety belt/harness to prevent falls from the float or vehicle.
- The name of the float-sponsoring organization or individual must be visible to the crowd. Floats must promote the parade theme.

For Parade Participant Meeting, please submit 3 things (please bring copies for us to take):

1. Pictures or schematics of float (if pulling a trailer-- photos must show that wheels are not exposed).
2. Proof of registration & insurance for trailer.
3. Copy of the driver's license of the driver of the float unit.

PARADE FLOW

Entries must keep to a slow, even pace and are NOT allowed to stop at any time 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.

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 court house.

The decision of the judges is final.

AWARDS/TROPHIES

Awards will be announced following the parade in social and news media.

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.

NO SANTA RULE!

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. Strictly enforced!

FEES/CANCELLATIONS

The Parade will go on rain or shine unless there is a situation of immediate inclement weather. In the unlikely event of Parade cancellation, entrants will be notified by the email provided on their registration forms and in PARA's social media. Parade entry fees are non-refundable.

If you need to cancel your entry, notify PARA at 205-562-3220 as soon as possible.

Thank you for participating in PARA's West Alabama Christmas Parade!

Questions? Visit tcpara.org/parade or contact
Amber Pope at 205-799-9447 or apope@tcpara.org

PARADE PARTICIPANT WAIVER

50th Annual West Alabama Christmas Parade Hosted by
PARA Monday, December 7, 2026 6:30PM

I hereby give my permission for myself (or my child) to participate in the above-named activity/class/program. I authorize Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority (PARA) to obtain necessary medical care and treatment for any illness or injury occurring during the activity/class/program. I understand that PARA is not assuming a duty to obtain medical treatment, make medical decisions, or render medical care or treatment. I understand that PARA has no accident or medical payment insurance coverage, and I agree to pay all reasonable medical costs incurred if treatment is obtained. I further understand that PARA assumes no responsibility or liability for lost, stolen, or misplaced items. I release PARA and its agents, servants, and employees from all claims, actions, causes of action, and rights of recovery or reimbursement of any type that may arise in the future related to the program/activity, including (but not limited to) claims of bodily injury, property damage, or loss. I assume all risks and hazards incidental to such activity/class/program, including transportation to and from the same. PARA does not discriminate based on disability in the admission/enrollment or access to its activity/class/program. If an individual poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or would cause PARA to fundamentally alter its program, PARA will determine whether reasonable accommodations can be made to integrate the individual into its program. By signing below, I confirm that I have read, understood, and agree to abide by the terms of this waiver.

WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS!!

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____
AUTHORIZING SIGNATURE: _____
DATE: _____

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

50th *Annual West Alabama Christmas Parade Hosted by* *PARA* Monday, December 7, 2026 6:30PM

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY: Monday, November 16, 2026 11:59PM

MAIL TO: PARA Christmas Parade
PO BOX 2496
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

or email:
apope@tcpara.org

PARADE THEME: Christmas Through the Decades

NAME OF ORGANIZATION/PARTICIPANT: _____

Please select the type of entry you will have in the parade and indicate how many vehicles (if applicable) are part of the entry and the approximate length of each vehicle (or vehicle type). Limit three (3) vehicles per entry.

If you wish to compete for a trophy, please indicate the competition category box next to your entry type. You may enter in only one competition category. First place trophies will be awarded in each judged category that has at least 3 or more entries. One "Best Overall" trophy will be awarded.

ENTRY TYPE	COMPETING IN JUDGED COMPETITION?	# OF VEHICLES	VEHICLE LENGTH/TYPE
____ Float/Trailer	____ Yes	____	_____
____ Decorated vehicle	____ Yes	____	_____
____ Marching Band	____ Yes	____	_____
____ Walking Group/Costumes	____ Yes	____	_____
____ Horse(s)	____ Yes	____	_____

Motorcycles/motorcycle groups not permitted.
This does not apply to law enforcement vehicles.

PARADE FEE: _____ $40 non-judged entry _____ $45 judged entry
All entries must be decorated according to parade theme whether competing or not.

- **Check/entry fee must be submitted to complete registration process.**
- **Parade lineup is limited to 100 participants on a first-come basis.**
- **Parade reserves the right to accept/approve all entries.**

PARADE ENTRY TITLE/THEME: _____

APPROX. # OF PARTICIPANTS (INCLUDING DRIVER):_____

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE PLANNED DECORATIONS:_____

_____

_____

CONTACT PERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CELL PHONE: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

Parade line up and other parade information will be emailed to the contact listed above. If you'd like to copy additional people please let us know.

MANDATORY PARADE PARTICIPANT MEETING:

Thursday, NOVEMBER 19 5:45PM BELK ACTIVITY CENTER

I have read and agree to abide by the parade rules and am authorized to submit this entry on behalf of the organization/group. I understand that should the parade rules be violated, including insufficient decorations, my entry may be removed from the parade. I understand that there are no refunds for parade entry fees.

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____ **DATE:** _____

FOR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PARADE, PLEASE CONTACT:

Amber Pope
apope@tcpara.org
205-799-9447

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: **RECTRAC #:** _____ **DATE:** _____

AMT PAID: $_____ **RECEIPT #:** _____

OFFICE LOCATION: _____ **EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE:** _____