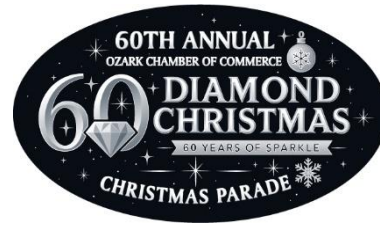


Ozark Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade Rules



We are looking forward to your participation in our **60th Annual Ozark Christmas Parade**, taking place **Saturday, November 22nd!**

Parade Route

- Parade will begin at **Ozark Innovation Center (1600 W. Jackson St.)** and follow Jackson St. to the Historic Square.
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Arrival, Check-In & Staging

- **Staging begins at 3:00 PM** at Ozark Innovation Center and ends at **5:00 PM** due to Jackson Street - road closure.
 - **All entries must be lined up no later than 5:00 PM.** Expect heavy traffic—plan accordingly.
 - **You MUST stop and check in** at the designated area.
 - **No Check-in = No Participation**
 - If you're not on the check-in list and not registered, you will be asked to pull off to the side and go online to register; then you will need to show the entry confirmation to the **Parade Staging Director**
 - Each entry must have **at least one (1) sign** identifying the organization or business.
 - **Follow the directions** of Category Line Leaders in the staging area.
 - Staging is based on entry type: business, church/religious, non-profits, clubs/miscellaneous.
 - Parade begins at **5:30 PM**, once all entries are checked in and ready.
 - Be prepared to **move forward as directed by the Merging Director**.
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Parking

- Parade participant parking is available at **Ozark Innovation Center**, in the **back southwest corner** parking lot behind the building.
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Safety

- **Do not throw candy from floats or vehicles.**
 - Candy may only be distributed by walkers alongside your entry.
 - If you cannot safely maneuver due to pedestrians:
 - **Stop and request that pedestrians clear the way.**
 - Police will be stationed along the route to assist and enforce pedestrian barriers.
 - Designate a **meeting area** for float riders and walkers to reconnect after the parade.
 - This must be **past the parade route**, preferably **south of Walnut and west of 3rd Street**.
 - Suggested areas: **3rd Street frontage road or Adams Funeral Home**.
 - **Do not stop except for emergencies.**
 - After exiting the Square, all entries must **proceed south on 3rd Street** to avoid disrupting parade flow.
 - Prepare for all weather conditions:
 - Bring coats, gloves, umbrellas, sunglasses, water, etc.
 - Complimentary cocoa may be available, but **no public water fountains** are on-site.
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Visibility

- The parade is held **after dark**—all entries **must be lit** so they can be clearly seen by spectators.
 - Each entry must display a **sign on the passenger side** with the organization/business name for judges.
 - For safety, **children under 10 years old are encouraged to ride** rather than walk in the parade.
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Float and Decorations Oversight

- Each float must have a **designated safety observer (age 18+)** to assist the driver and monitor participants.
- Anyone operating a motorized vehicle must have a **valid Missouri driver's license**.
- The **Ozark Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to remove** any entry that poses a safety concern or violates rules.
- No political slander, inappropriate signage, or offensive decorations.
 - All entries must be **festive, family-friendly, and in good taste**.
- Floats must include **lighting, decorations, or music**—this is an entertainment-focused parade.
- Decorations must not pose safety hazards (e.g., tripping, sparks, low visibility for the driver).
- Each entry must have **at least one (1) sign** identifying the group or business.

No Live Santas

- To avoid confusing or spoiling the experience for children, **no live Santa or Mrs. Claus** may appear on any float.
 - The **only live Santa** will appear at the end of the parade, provided by the Chamber.
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Inclement Weather

- The parade is an **all-weather event**, except in cases of **dangerous weather** (e.g., tornadoes, flooding, ice storms).
 - In the event of cancellation:
 - The Chamber will contact each organization's listed primary contact **by 3:00 PM on November 22.**
 - Updates will also be posted on the **Ozark Chamber Facebook page.**
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Judging and Winners

- Trophies will be awarded for **1st and 2nd place** in the following categories:
 - Business Class
 - Non-Profit
 - Church / Religious
 - Clubs / Schools
 - Judges will be positioned on the North West corner of the Downtown Square
 - Judging will be based on:
 - Parade Theme: **"60 Years of Sparkle"**
 - Originality and Creativity
 - Visual Effects
 - Presentation and Spirit
 - You must have a **visible sign on the passenger side** so judges can identify your entry.
 - Winners will be announced the evening of the parade on the **Ozark Chamber Facebook page.**
 - Trophies can be picked up the following week at:
1503 S. 3rd Street, Ozark
(Please call ahead: 417-581-6139)
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Continued....

Social Media Help

- Take and share photos on **Facebook and Instagram**.
- Please tag the **Ozark Chamber of Commerce** and use these hashtags:
 - **#ozarkmoparade**
 - **#shopozarkmo**
- We may **reshare your photos** or use them in future marketing materials.
- The Ozark Chamber of Commerce will be doing a FACEBOOK LIVE video of the parade on our main page for you to enjoy and share after the event.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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