



Parade Rules and Guidelines

We are looking forward to your participation in our 61st Annual Ozark Christmas Parade taking place Saturday November 21st!

PARADE ROUTE

- Parade will begin at Ozark Innovation Center, 1600 W. Jackson St and follow Jackson St. to the Historic Square.

ARRIVAL, CHECK-IN & STAGING

- Parade Staging will begin at 3:00 p.m. at Ozark Innovation Center, 1600 W. Jackson St. ending at 5:00 pm for road closure of Jackson Street.
- **YOU MUST STOP and CHECK-IN at DESIGNATED AREA.** If you are not on the Check-In List and have not registered your entry, you will be asked to pull aside and go online to register. Then you will need to show your entry confirmation to the Parade Staging Director.
- You must have a minimum of one (1) sign identifying the organization / business entered
- You must follow directions of the Category Line Leaders in the Staging area. You will be staged according to the type of float, i.e. business, church/ religious, non-profits and clubs/miscellaneous
- Parade will begin at 5:30 pm once everyone is checked in and ready to go.
- Please be ready to move forward as directed by the Merging Director

****All entries must be lined up in the staging area no later than 5 PM. Traffic will be heavy, please plan accordingly. ****

PARKING

- Parade Participant parking available at Ozark Innovation Center at 1600 W Jackson St. in the back southwest corner parking lot behind the building

SAFETY

- **DO NOT THROW ANY ITEMS FROM YOUR VEHICLE / FLOAT.** Items like Candy, T-Shirts, Marketing Material or whatever must be handed from people walking beside the float. Failure to comply could constitute removal from the parade.
- If you do not believe you have enough clearance for you to maneuver your vehicle & float especially if you are turning onto the Square and around a corner due to pedestrians in the street, **YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO STOP and ask for pedestrians to clear the way. Police will be present along the route and enforcing pedestrians to stay behind barriers.**
- You are responsible for establishing a designated meeting area for your walkers/marchers & float riders who will need to meet parents after the parade or those helping to dismantle the float. This spot must be past or beyond the end of the parade route (South of Walnut and preferably west of 3rd Street), The 3rd Street frontage road and Adams Funeral Home are recommended.

- For the safety of all people involved, float riders & participants must stay on their parade entry until after the end of the parade route.
- **DO NOT STOP EXCEPT FOR EMERGENCIES or PEDESTRIANS BLOCKING THE ROAD. After exiting the square, all entries must proceed South on 3rd Street. Entries must keep moving until your designated meeting area is reached to avoid disrupting/stalling the parade flow.**
- Come prepared: Late autumn in the Ozarks can mean sun, wind, rain, snow, ice or mixture of all. Hats, sunglasses, heavy coats, gloves, umbrellas, and galoshes/winter boots may all be needed. Also, while complimentary cocoa may be available, there are no public water fountains on the Downtown Square or in the staging area for the parade, so plan to bring water for your representatives.

Visibility

- The parade takes place after dark. **ENTRIES MUST BE LIT** for spectators to see your entry and signage. The parade route is lit only by streetlights.
- All entries must have minimum one (1) sign that is visible to the Parade Judges placed on the passenger side of entry so to identify the organization / business
- For the safety of Parade participants, students/participants under the age of 10 are encouraged not to participate as "walkers" in the Parade. All children under the age of 10 are encouraged to ride on a vehicle or float.

Float/Decorations Oversight

- Floats must have a designated safety observer over the age of 18 to guide the driver and ensure that riders are adhering to rules and not disembarking prior to the end of the parade.
- Anyone operating a motorized vehicle must have a valid Missouri Driver's License.
- **The Ozark Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to refuse or remove any entry deemed as creating safety concern or not adhering to the parade rules.**
- For the enjoyment of participants and spectators, NO political slander, stickers, inappropriate signage will be allowed. Decorations must be festive and in good taste (no obscenity, drug or alcohol references, etc.)
- Entries must be lit for spectators to see your entry and signage. Your entry must have some type of lighting/decor/music added to it for entry as the parade is for entertainment purposes.
- All entries must have 1 sign identifying the organization / business entered.
- Decorations must not cause safety hazards (tripping, sparks, dragging, low visibility for driver, etc.)

No Live Santas

- In order not to spoil Santa for the children of Ozark, no floats may have a live Santa or Mrs. Claus. The Chamber of Commerce will provide a live Santa at the end of the parade. This will be the only live Santa allowed in the parade.

Inclement Weather:

- The Christmas Parade is an all-weather event, except for extremely dangerous weather (tornados, flooding, ice storm, etc.). In the unlikely circumstances that we must cancel, the Ozark Chamber staff will make every attempt to contact your organization's listed Primary Contact before 3:00 pm on 11/21. We will also post updates on our Ozark Chamber Facebook page.

Judging and Winners:

- We will have four (4) different categories in this year's parade and award 1st and 2nd place trophies.
 - Business Class
 - Non-Profit
 - Church / Religious
 - Clubs / Schools
- Judging will be based on Theme of Parade "Patriotic Christmas, Stars, Stripes and Christmas Lights." Originality/Creativity, Visual Effects and Presentation/Spirit. You must have a visible sign with name of your business on the passenger side of the entry for judges to see.
- Judges will be located on the Historic Square near the Main Live Broadcast Stage
- Winners will be announced later that evening on Ozark Chamber Facebook Page and winners can pick up trophy's the following week at the Chamber office at 1503 S. 3rd Street, Ozark, (please call for availability (417) 581-6139.

Social Media Help

- Please take as many pictures as you can and when you upload them to Facebook or Instagram and please consider tagging the Ozark Chamber of Commerce page. We also encourage the use of **#ozarkmoparade** **#shopozarkmo**. We will try and reshare as many as possible and may use some pics on future marketing.
- 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.

General Liability:

- The Ozark Chamber of Commerce is not responsible for any vehicle damage, personal injuries, or accidents that may occur during the event. All participants are fully responsible for the operation of their own vehicles, equipment, and floats, as well as for any damage or injury they may cause to themselves, other participants, spectators, or property. By participating, you acknowledge and accept full responsibility for your actions and agree to exercise caution at all times.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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