

# Columbus Christmas Parade 2023

## “A Classic Christmas!”

Sunday, December 10th, at 6:00pm  
Rain or Shine!



### Joining us this year! The Amazing Clydesdale Horses!

We invite you to join us as we plan this year's Columbus Christmas Parade!  
Please complete the attached application and liability release and return to  
Main Street Columbus, P.O. Box 1062, Columbus, MS 39703  
OR Email to [columbusmainstreet@gmail.com](mailto:columbusmainstreet@gmail.com)  
OR Deliver to our office at 107 5th Street North, Downtown Columbus (please call first).  
Questions should be directed to Main Street Columbus, 662-328-6305.



**The entry fee can be paid by check, cash, or money order.**

**STAGING AREA:** Hitching Lot Farmers' Market (located at 2nd Avenue and 2nd Street North) and surrounding streets.

**PARADE ROUTE:** Parade begins and ends at the Hitching Lot Farmers' Market, 2nd Street North and 2nd Avenue North, Columbus, MS. Details will be made available in your acceptance packet following registration.

We will again offer competitive and non-competitive categories. If you want your entry to compete for prize money, please indicate on the application attached. You may enter a vehicle which is decorated according to the enclosed provisions, but there are no spaces for business advertising this year. There are, however, sponsorship opportunities available where business advertising is allowed. See entry fees and sponsor form on following pages.

Acceptance of entries will be acknowledged with a complete information package which you can expect to receive the last week of November. This package will include transportation instructions, suggested drop off and pick up points and your access to the line-up.

**REMEMBER!** The Columbus Christmas Parade is for the enjoyment of adults and children of all ages. We ask that you help us enhance our Christmas Parade by following the theme and being as creative as possible. Your entry must be festively decorated according to this year's theme and Christmas music is requested as part of your entry. Your radio can be tuned to 93.3 if you do not have music available.

For the entertainment and enjoyment of those watching the parade, all participants should act, dress and behave in a manner appropriate to the season. Smiles and waves are mandatory!



**Failure to comply will result in removal from the parade with no refund given.**



# General Rules and Guidelines

Please read carefully as you will be expected to comply with all guidelines listed below.

**There is only ONE Santa - Please DO NOT include any kind of Santa in your entry.**

- ★ Floats and vehicles MUST have seasonal and themed decorations. Undecorated entries will be removed from the parade line-up and application fees will be forfeited. Vehicles will be inspected at the check-in/entry point.  
This year's theme is - "A Classic Christmas!" (Classic Movies, Music, a Role Model, Anything with lasting value)
- ★ Make sure all entries are identified with signage, especially if you want to be judged. Judges MUST be able to see your name clearly on both sides of your entry. Professional lettered signs are required (no hand written signs will be accepted). Please help us provide a professional parade appearance with proper signage.
- ★ Individuals riding on a float must stay within 18 inches of the edge of a float unless the float has a railing.
- ★ People walking with a float must stay at least 6 feet from the side of a float.
- ★ **Please note: Due to the beautiful string lights on 5th Street, all entries MUST BE LESS THAN 16 FEET IN HEIGHT. You will be responsible for damages to the lights or to anyone on your entry if you exceed the height maximum.**
- ★ Floats and vehicles must be fully decorated upon arrival at the staging area.

**★ Competitive Entries MUST arrive between 3:15 – 4:00 p.m. and be set up for the judging at 4:30 p.m. Anyone arriving after 4:00 p.m. will not be eligible for judging.**

- ★ Walking Groups must be active (Caroling, Baton Twirling, Juggling, Marching, Dancing While Moving Forward, Etc.) Please do NOT stop along the parade route to perform. Groups must MOVE at all times. The deposit will be forfeited if a group stops on the parade route and the group may not be allowed to participate in future parades.
- ★ Each entry must have a designated responsible adult present. The group and/or contact person will be responsible and held accountable for all individuals associated with your entry.
- ★ NO loud shocking noises, bull horns, explosives, or other offensive noises. All generators used must not be loud.
- ★ NO motorcycles or vehicles are allowed to perform any type of stunts.
- ★ NO smoking, vaping, or alcoholic beverages on any entries.
- ★ No one is to get on or off of a float once the parade is moving. This also applies should the parade stop on the route.
- ★ Nothing is to be thrown into the crowd. This means candy, beads, stickers, etc. However, candy may be distributed and carted in a small wagon.
- ★ No pamphlets or flyers are to be handed out. No political signage is allowed.
- ★ The Columbus Christmas Parade Committee reserves the right to refuse any entrant he/she deems to be unsafe, does not conform to the theme, arrives late, has blatant advertising or is not adhering to parade rules. **There are no refunds given after you have been accepted in the parade.**
- ★ Playing of music is not permitted in the staging area - testing only! Only Christmas music is allowed to be played in the parade, unless written authorization has been provided by Main Street Columbus. Please indicate this request on your application.
- ★ Your entry must be self-sufficient and you will be responsible to acquire your own float or flatbed. Any mechanical failures or breakdowns are your responsibility.
- ★ NO horses will be allowed to walk in the parade except as provided by the organizer.
- ★ If you are a multiple entry group and wish to ride together in the parade, you must arrive together. Line-up is in the order you arrive!
- ★ Parents/guardians are expected to escort their children to and from their group's float. Volunteers are not responsible for doing so. Volunteers are here to help, but cannot be expected to know where all floats are located in the line-up!

**Failure to comply will result in removal from the parade with no refund given.**

## WAIVER OF LIABILITY

I/We accept the rules for participating in the Columbus Christmas Parade and Main Street Columbus is hereby released from all manner of actions, which may result from our participation in the 2023 Columbus Christmas Parade. I/We grant to Main Street Columbus, Inc., and its representatives and employees the right to take photographs of me and my property in connection with the Columbus Christmas Parade. I agree that Main Street Columbus may use such photographs/videos of me with or without my name and for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, web content and social media.

Authorizing Person (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization/Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your application for the parade.

Main Street Columbus, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any application based on space limitations or past refusal of entry to abide by parade rules and guidelines. Every entry will be considered on its own merit. Blatant Commercial Advertising is not permitted. Please make sure your entry is appropriate for the parade.

# Parade Application Form

Name of Participating Group:		
Name of Contact Person:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Home Phone #:		Work #:
Cell Phone # at Parade Site:		
E-Mail Address:		Website:
Type of Parade Entry (Check One):    Float___ Trailer___ Walking Group___ Car/Truck___		
Approximate # of participants:	Adults:	Children:
Approximate length of entry (in feet):		
Will you have amplified music?    Yes___    No___    If yes, please describe		
Does it matter if you are near a band?    Yes___    No___		
Describe how your entry will be festively decorated:		

**Please note: Due to the beautiful string lights on 5th Street, all entries MUST BE LESS THAN 16 FEET IN HEIGHT. You will be responsible for damages to the lights or to anyone on your entry if you exceed the height maximum.**

**Entry Fees (Please circle appropriate category)**

**All entries MUST be decorated with the theme.**

**No business advertising on entry (Please see attached Parade Sponsorship Form).**

## Competitive Entry Fees & Prizes

**Entry MUST arrive between 3:15-4:00pm and be set up for the judging which begins promptly at 4:30pm.**

**Anyone arriving after 4:00pm will not be eligible for judging. If you are late, you will NOT be judged!**

Floats - \$50.00 per entry  
Non-Profit Floats - \$35.00 per entry

**PRIZES:**  
1st Place Float - \$75.00  
2nd Place Float - \$50.00

Car/Pick-up Truck - \$40.00 per entry  
Non-Profit Car/Pick-up Truck - \$30.00 per entry

**PRIZES:**  
1st Place Car/Truck - \$60.00  
2nd Place Car/Truck - \$40.00

## Non-Competitive Entries

Entry MUST arrive between 4:15-5:00pm

Marching Bands/Walking Groups - \$35.00 (**Dance teams will pay a \$100 refundable deposit with their fee - See Rules**)

Beauty Queens, Pageant Winners, Personalities - \$75.00

# Parade Sponsor Form

Joining us this year! The Amazing Clydesdale Horses!



Name of Participating Group:		
Name of Contact Person:		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:
Home Phone #:		Work #:
Cell Phone # at Parade Site:		
E-Mail Address:		Website:
Type of Parade Entry (Check One):    Float___ Trailer___ Walking Group___ Car/Truck___		
Approximate # of participants:	Adults:	Children:
Approximate length of entry (in feet):		
Will you have amplified music?    Yes___    No___    If yes, please describe		
Does it matter if you are near a band?    Yes___    No___		
Describe how your entry will be festively decorated:		

**Please note: Due to the beautiful string lights on 5th Street, all entries MUST BE LESS THAN 16 FEET IN HEIGHT. You will be responsible for damages to the lights or to anyone on your entry if you exceed the height maximum.**

**All entries MUST be decorated with the theme**  
**“A Classic Christmas”**

**Parade Sponsorship: \$300**

**Includes:**

**One non-competitive entry in parade (decorated in accordance with official guidelines)**  
**Acknowledgement on all parade media (posters, TV, newspapers, social media, etc.)**

