



2023 Downtown Parade of Lights Guidelines and Rules



Parade Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023

Entry Deadline: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 5:00 pm. (**Entries and payment must be RECEIVED by this time.**)

Entry Fee: \$40 (Pay Online at www.accgov.com/myrec or by Check, payable to Athens-Clarke County)

Parade Theme: "An Art Filled Holiday"

Athens-Clarke County Unified Government and Athens Downtown Development Authority are proud to present the Downtown Parade of Lights. The theme for this year is "**An Art Filled Holiday.**"

The ACC Downtown Parade of Lights is a "rain or shine" event. If safety becomes an issue for participants and spectators due to severe weather, the parade may be cancelled by the Athens-Clarke County Leisure Services Department. If the event is cancelled, refunds will be given if requested in writing within 7 days of the event. Entry fees will not be given as credits for subsequent year's entry fees.

General Guidelines:

1. Payment (\$40) must accompany a fully completed entry form to be considered for entry into the parade. Payment may be rendered online or by check. Entry forms will not be accepted after the published registration deadline. Photos or clearly detailed drawings are recommended. Acceptance of entry into the parade is contingent upon entry meeting the requirements, space, and parade length. The ACC Downtown Parade of Lights is a float-oriented parade; priority will be given to those entry types.
2. The parade committee reserves the right to refuse entry if it does not meet the requirements. Entry fee will not be refunded.
3. The Parade Committee will set the marching order of the parade.
4. **Absolutely no objects, including candy, shall be thrown or dropped from floats, vehicles, or other entries.**
Note: Failure to comply with this rule will jeopardize future acceptance in the parade. This is a safety issue. A maximum of **10 adults** may walk alongside or behind a float or performing unit and can *personally hand* candy to the spectators along the route.
5. "Special characters" (ie. Frosty the Snowman, the Grinch, etc.) must be in full costume. **No entry can display Santa Claus or Mrs. Claus.** *More than one Santa confuses the children.*
6. Use of holiday music is encouraged, and must be approved by the parade committee prior to the event.
7. Entries should carry or include easily readable signage to assist the judges with identification.
8. As many lights should be used on the entry as possible in order to make this a "parade of lights." Flashlights, glow sticks, etc. are encouraged.

Entry Requirements – Animals

1. Entries with horses (or any other large animals) are by invitation only. Horses should have buns, and riders should dress in holiday attire.
2. Entries with other animals must have prior approval.

Entry Requirements – Vehicles

1. Trucks, and motorcycles are not accepted as entries with the exception of Classic Cars. A Classic Car is defined as being 45 years old or older and maintained in a way that keeps it true to the original manufacturer specifications.
2. Public Service vehicles may be allowed as entries but must be decorated such that their physical characteristics are hidden.

Entry Requirements – Floats

1. Floats have a maximum height of 13 feet; maximum length of 55 feet; maximum width of 12 feet. These parameters include the *entire entry* – float, tow vehicle, and hitch.
2. Floats must be decorated so that their physical characteristics will be hidden and unrecognizable as a trailer, flatbed, etc. Skirting shall extend to a point no higher than 6" from the ground and is required on all floats.
3. **Each float must promote the parade theme “An Art Filled Holiday” and holiday season.**

Entry Requirements – Performing Units

1. Organized Performing Units, such as marching bands, gymnasts, twirlers, etc., must have entertainment value for the parade viewers. *Groups of individuals walking without performing are not permitted.*
2. Organized Performing Units should keep their formations to no more than 8 people wide, in that some of the parade route is narrower than other portions.
3. Organized performing units are encouraged to perform a short routine for the judges at the reviewing stand. Performances should not exceed 30 seconds. All performances and music should be “family friendly.” If your unit would like music to be played over the main stage speakers at the judging stand, music must be emailed to mortontheatre@accgov.com by **Monday, November 27, 2023**. Music should be in a .wav or mp3 format.

Rules for Parade Line Up – Floats

1. Entries will be given an assembly time and spot assignment. Entries can begin assembling on Hancock Street no earlier than 5:00 p.m., but are to be in place no later than 5:45 p.m. Entries not in place by this time may not be judged or eligible for awards.
2. The parade line up will be posted at www.accgov.com/parade the day before the parade. Entrants will also receive the parade line up and instructions via email.
3. Entrants arriving after 6:00 p.m. will not be allowed to participate in the parade.

Rules for Parade Line Up – Performing Units

1. Performing Units may begin assembling on Hancock Street no earlier than 5:00 p.m. but need to be in place no later than 6:15 p.m. Arriving after this time places the entrant at risk of not being allowed to participate in the parade.
2. The parade line up will be posted at www.accgov.com/parade the day before the parade. Entrants will also receive the parade line up and instructions via email.
3. Performing Units should gather at their assigned location, but off the street. There is usually a parking lot or other open space for members to congregate while waiting for the parade to begin.

Questions?

Please email paradeoflights@accgov.com or call 706-613-3800