



PARADE OF LIGHTS
Saturday, December 6, 2025
Participant Application - Registration Deadline November 20, 2025

For the safety and enjoyment of all participants and spectators, compliance to the following rules is mandatory. Any disregard or neglect of the rules will result in disqualification of participation.

NOTE: The term “float” refers to any trailer or entry in the actual parade unless referring specifically to “walkers” or “groups.”

1. The parade will start at 5:00 p.m.
2. The parade theme is PARADE OF LIGHTS. All floats and vehicles must have lighted decorations.
3. All floats must be present at the float staging area no later than 4:15 p.m. and be ready to roll at 5:00 p.m.
4. All entries must be driven by a licensed and insured driver.
5. All entries must be completed when they arrive at the staging area. Last minute touches and fix-ups are allowed, but there will be no complete decorating allowed in the staging area.
6. Registration numbers will be given the week of parade day. All entries must clearly display their number in the windshield or on the front of the vehicle pulling, so that it can be seen by organizers as entries enter the staging area. **ANY ENTRY OR VEHICLE WITHOUT A REGISTRATION NUMBER WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE STAGING AREA.**
7. Entries will receive more information about line-up order the week of parade day. If a group of vehicles is one entry, they **MUST** arrive together at the parade staging area. It is suggested that you meet at another location and then come together to the staging area.
8. Judging process:
 - a. Floats will be judged based on their use of lights, creativity, originality and special effects.
 - b. Judging will occur during the parade route from Main Street.
 - c. Please make sure your business/church/organization name is clearly visible from both sides of your float so that judges will know who you are!
 - d. The winners will be announced after the parade at a trophy ceremony on the stage on Main Street. Please provide a number that can receive a text for winner notification immediately following the parade so that representatives of your group can be notified with instructions of when and where to meet for the presentation. Winners will also be announced on the MCDP Facebook page.
 - e. The parade is after dark so the use of lights is advised and expected.
9. PARADE ROUTE: The parade route will be publicized at a later time but will be explicitly explained the week of the parade.

10. For added safety, floats must have a minimum of 2 walkers per side, at least 4 in total. Float participants will receive instructions concerning the pick up spots for riders/walkers at the end of the parade route. Additional safety instructions, along with entry number and location of unloading areas, will be given the week of parade.
11. Due to traffic concerns and parking, please encourage float riders to carpool or have someone drop them off.
12. Please be sure you have someone that will share the information with your group prior to the parade. There will be limited space so parking will not be allowed in the staging area. It is designated as drop off only. Bands and walking groups must have a registration card as well. Bands will be lined up in the order assigned to them., no exceptions.
13. Due to street cleaning and safety issues, entries may **NOT** throw small individually-wrapped candy or beads. Other candies and throw items are allowed.
14. Santa Claus will end the parade riding on the Columbia Fire Department Truck. NO other Santas will be allowed in the parade. If you have a Santa on your float it will be disqualified from judging.
15. Fire trucks and any law enforcement vehicles may not use their sirens during the parade.
16. This is a family-oriented event. No vulgar music or comments will be tolerated. A holiday playlist is encouraged.
17. Entries will not be allowed to stop and perform during the parade so that it may proceed in a timely manner.
18. Dance teams are allowed to participate, but may not stop and perform. All dance teams must dress and act appropriately. No vulgar or suggestive attire, movements, or music will be tolerated.
19. Pre-registration is required. Registration entry numbers, rules & unloading areas will be given the week of the parade. The registration number issued **MUST** be presented to enter the parade route. More instructions about this will be shared later.
 - a. All floats - \$100
 - b. Walking groups - \$100
 - c. All vehicles, motorcycles or side by sides must be part of a group- \$20 per vehicle/motorcycle
 - d. There is no fee for fire trucks or law enforcement vehicles with official markings. However, they must register by the deadline.
 - e. There is no fee for school bands.

Instead of a mandatory meeting, we will distribute the parade information for entries on **Monday, December 1** from 8am-5pm at the Marion County Development Partnership 412 Courthouse Square. Someone from your group will need to pick up your information packet sometime during those hours.
Please help spread the word.

Entry fees paid by participants will go toward continued parade improvements, specifically safety plan development and implementation.



PARADE OF LIGHTS

Saturday, December 6, 2025 Participant Application

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT – November 20. There is no fee for fire trucks, law enforcement vehicles with official markings and high school bands. However, they must register by deadline. If your group has more than one float (ex: 2 trailers for a pee wee football team & cheerleaders), you must register each float separately. Each float must have a unique registration number.

Organization Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Type of Entry with Fee: (Check the box for the entry type.)

☐ A. Float (\$100)

☐ B. Car/Truck (\$100)

☐ C. Vehicle Group (\$20 per vehicle)

☐ Limit of 5 per group (Car club, jeep club, motorcycle group) Include of vehicles _____

☐ D. Walking group
\$100

☐ E. Other: _____

Description of Entry:

1. Include the total length of entry from headlight to taillight _____ ft.

2. Will your entry have music? _____

3. What would you like the audience to know about your entry or business?

4. Who are your entry participants? Who would you like to recognize?

Approximate number of people with entry: _____ (riders, walkers)

Amount paid: _____

Received by: _____

If submitting on line, payment must be received by Thursday, November 20 by the Marion County Development Partnership. Pay by cash, check or call 601-736-6385 for payment by card.

I, _____, attest that I have read and understand all of the rules for participation in the MCDP Parade of Lights and will abide by the rules set forth. I understand that my failure to comply may result in a ban from participation in this and/or future parades. **I further agree that my entry will have a representative pick up parade information on Monday, December 1 between the hours of 8am & 5pm.**

Signature

Date