

SAFETY UPDATES & REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

To ensure the safest experience for all our participants and spectators, the City of Kannapolis has implemented the following guidelines and safety measures for this year's Christmas Parade:

1. REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

All the following rules, regulations, parking information, and safety guidelines can be found on our website: <https://www.kannapolisnc.gov/ChristmasParade>

2. WRITTEN SAFETY PLAN AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

A written safety plan is being prepared by fire and police official to address any unexpected emergencies. This plan will assess risk mitigation and contingency planning; safety briefings for event volunteers and other stakeholders; and notification all other entities with control over potential hazards. This plan will also include inclement weather and emergency/security response. Additionally, all parade drivers will receive information to contact key emergency parade and municipal personnel.

3. ROUTE

Parade route maps with clearly delineate street closures are included on the website and below for your reference. The City has notified residents and businesses along the parade route of the events and possible street closures affecting them well in advance.

4. VEHICLES

Police officials have determined that all **drivers should keep a steady pace of no more than 3 MPH.** The City is also asking all participants to send in copies of drivers licenses and registration cards for all vehicles participating in the parade. **A separate email will be sent asking for this information.**

5. DRIVERS

Beyond the requisite driver's license needed to operate a moving vehicle, Police officials have determined **21 to be the minimum age for drivers** participating in the parade, especially those that are pulling the extra length and load of a large float.

6. PARTICIPANTS

Chaperones are required for participants under 18. Minors associated with your organization and entry are your responsibility. Please have an exit plan in place to connect your participants to their parents. No children under the age of 12 should be on a float without adult supervision.

The distribution of candy along the parade route is allowed if HANDED to parade viewers by walking entry members. It is prohibited to toss or throw any candy and/or other favors or objects at parade viewers.

The use of alcohol or illegal drugs in any form is prohibited before and during the parade by any parade participants and officials. Individuals violating this requirement will be immediately removed from the parade.

All drivers and participants must follow the directions of the parade marshals. They are in place to keep the flow of the parade safe and moving.

7. ANIMALS

All animals participating in the parade should be healthy and current on their vaccinations. Unrestrained pets are not allowed in the parade. Please always keep animals under control. Leashes should be no longer than six feet. There may only be one rider per horse and no more than three abreast. Horse entries will be provided a special location to load/unload. All animal entries must be accompanied by someone dedicated to immediately clean up after them along the parade route.

8. ASSEMBLY AND DISASSEMBLY

Assembly and disassembly areas have been identified and will be communicated to all participants through the mail. These sites will also be given to each driver at the beginning of the parade and staff will direct entries to them at the end of the parade.

9. VIEWING STANDS AND VENDORS

Designated viewing areas are all along the parade route. Please remind your parents, friends and any spectators of basic safety measures for children and adults—such as not running in front of or attempting to board floats and staying on the sidewalk and out of the street.

10. DEBRIS REMOVAL

Parade planning procedures always incorporate debris clean up and removal. Please help eliminate litter by not handing flyers and putting all trash in the receptacles provided.

STAGING AREA INFORMATION

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE IN THEIR DESIGNATED STAGING AREA BEGINNING AT 4:00 PM AND IN PLACE READY TO GO BY 5:45 PM. WE WILL START PROMPTLY AT 6:00 P.M.

ALL UNITS

- Staging area is on **MAIN STREET**. ONCE CLOSED, MAIN STREET WILL BE ONE WAY, NORTH BOUND, up to Laureate Way. **All traffic MUST enter from Dale Earnhardt Blvd.**
- Please have your line up number card with you. Vehicles without the line-up cards will not be allowed to enter.
- **Individual/personal cars will NOT be allowed to come down to your line up spot to drop participants off. Make sure your participants know your line up number so they can park and walk to your designated spot.**
- At the end of the parade, vehicles will be instructed to exit the parade route via Vance Ave to Dale Earnhardt Blvd.
- For riders of floats, you will be able to disembark the float at the participant pick-up area.
- All participants should make a prior plan for minors to be reunited with their parents/guardians in a pre-designated plan. This can be in the parking lot on the corner of Vance and Dale Earnhardt, on Oak Ave (south of Vance), in the Chestnut Parking Lot or the Watson Crick Parking Lot.

BAND GROUPS:

- Your staging area is on **NORTH MAIN STREET**. Enter MAIN STREET, GOING SOUTH, OFF OF LOOP RD.
- Busses will be allowed to drop participants off on Main Street and then will be asked to proceed to the "BAND Participant Pick Up" which is in the parking lot on the corner of Cabarrus Ave and West Ave.
- At the end of the parade, all participants will be able to walk to your location.

PROFESSIONAL FLOAT PARTICIPANTS:

- Your staging area is on MAIN STREET in front of the Core Lab Building.
- Your float will be waiting for you.
- Busses will be allowed to drop participants off on Main Street and then proceed to the "Parade Participants Pick Up" which is in the parking lot on the corner of Dale Earnhardt and Vance. **Individual/personal cars will NOT be allowed to come down to your line up spot. Make sure your participants know your line up number so they can park and walk to your designated spot.**
- At the end, you will be able to disembark the float at the participant pick-up area.

HORSE RIDER PARTICIPANTS:

- Your staging area is on Main Street; however, trailer parking is in the lot on the corner of Main & West Ave. **This lot is ONLY accessible from WEST AVENUE.**
 - Please have your line up number card with you.
 - At the end, you will be able to exit the parade route via West Avenue and ride back to your horse trailers.
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PLEASE NOTE:

- Due to the continued development and construction in the downtown area, the Parade route has been adjusted to be the safest and most spectator friendly. Please bear with us as we adjust to these changes.
- Due to a few tight turns through two roundabout on West Avenue, your entire float length is restricted to 50 FEET. This is only applicable to the total length of a truck and trailer. **Multiple vehicle entries or walking units that are longer than 50 feet are welcome; we are only restricting the total FLOAT LENGTH to 50 FEET (NO TRACTOR TRAILERS.) If you have any questions about this restriction, please email me.**
- Participants must be in their designated staging area beginning at 4:00 pm and in place ready to go by 5:45 pm. We will start promptly at 6:00 p.m.
- The parade will take place RAIN OR SHINE! Only severe weather cancellations are possible.
- Staging area on Main Street will be closed beginning at 3:00 pm.
- Port-A-Johns are available in the staging areas as well as at the end of the parade at the parade participant pickup location.
- **A designated “performance area”** will be in front of the judges stand at the corner of West Avenue and Cannon Baller Way. Bands and dance teams should plan accordingly. This is same location where Channel 22 will be filming the parade.
- **All parade entries should be of a holiday theme and be lighted.** Entries may promote political or campaign agendas as well as advertising for a company, political group, or special interest group; however, they **MUST** have a holiday theme and be lighted.
- At the end of the parade, proceed to the “Parade Participant Pickup” area to disburse to keep the flow of the parade going to its completion.
- Prizes will be awarded via USPS after the parade.
- Finally, HAVE A GREAT TIME and thanks again for your participation this year!!!