Dear Parade Participant,

Thank you for your participation in the City of Woodstock's Christmas Jubilee Parade of Lights!

We look forward to seeing you SUNDAY, December 6th!

Listed below are key details that will help make the day run smoothly. Please read the important rules and instructions and share with the float driver, parents, and others in your group. It is your responsibility to ensure that *everyone in your group* knows the rules and instructions before they arrive to line up. Always check the website *before* heading out to any event!

It is our hope to have a safe and happy parade for all from start to finish! Thank you again for your participation this year!

Have Fun!



Marybeth Stockdale

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City of Woodstock
Parks and Recreation Department
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Christmas Jubilee & Parade of Lights!

SUNDAY, December 6, 2026 5:30 pm

PARADE PARTICIPANT

Instructions, Rules & Codes of Conduct

Please work with us to keep the parade as enjoyable and fair as possible for everyone, and to keep the parade true to its original intent – to allow the entire community to participate in a city-wide event that delights both children and adults. If we all keep in mind that the primary audience is children, we know we will have a great parade!

REGISTRATION

INSTRUCTIONS

Registration deadline is **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026**, or until there are not more spots available. No day of event drop-ins.

IMPORTANT: To register, you will need to first set up a User Account on our website. This will give you access to any programs or events that we offer. Then log back in to fill out and submit the parade registration. Be sure to go all the way through the checkout process even if there is no fee for the event. You will receive a confirmation email immediately after your registration is submitted online. If not, you must re-register. Visit www.WoodstockParksandRec.com under the Special Events tab.

PARADE ROUTE

The parade starts at Woodstock Elementary School at 230 Rope Mill Road and continues down Rope Mill Road to Main Street. It then travels south on Main Street and ends at Sam's Club just before Highway 92. The route is approximately 1.3 miles long.

POLICIES

Registration will close early if maximum number of parade spots have been filled.

All entries will be limited to ONE decorated vehicle with/without a float, your second vehicle will be turned away. Contact us if you have a special condition requiring an extra vehicle. Must be pre-approved.

We accept registrations of politicians that serve Woodstock and/or Cherokee County ONLY.

If necessary, Residents and Businesses within the city limits of Woodstock will be given priority.

CANCELLATIONS

If you must cancel, let us know ASAP. Failure to notify us of a cancellation may put you on the waiting list for the next parade. The City of Woodstock reserves the right to cancel the event at any time for any reason. You will be notified by e-mail and phone if necessary.

WEATHER POLICY

It is a rain or shine event, unless inclement, severe, extreme, or unsafe weather rolls in. Check our website or Facebook page for delays or cancellations www.WoodstockParksandRec.com

You will be notified via e-mail and phone call, if necessary, in the event of a delay or cancellation.

Every effort will be made to put on the event including a delay in starting the parade due to severe weather. We will plan for the parade to go on as usual until then.

Bring bottled water and dress with weather conditions in mind.

THE EVENT WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED.

CANDY THROWING

Please do not *whip* candy from the floats into the crowds. You might hit somebody who is not watching.

Toss or roll the candy to the curb so kids don't run out into the street to get it.

Preferably, walkers should hand candy to children on the side of the road.

Please do not have children *drop* candy from the float. Kids cannot reach it from the side of the road, and it becomes a hazard.

No throwing confetti, streamers, bouncing balls, or Frisbee's.

Consider small toys and trinkets instead of candy.

Have help from the vehicle or float if you need to refill your handouts, especially water bottles, fans, etc., so as not to slow down the progress of the parade. Walkers must be able to keep pace with their vehicle.

ALCOHOL

For safety reasons, alcoholic beverages are not allowed to be consumed at any time by parade entries during the parade. Any participant believed to be under the influence of any intoxicating or impairing substance will not be allowed to participate in the parade.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

All parade floats and displays with a generator must have a fire extinguisher on the float/display with them. No open flames, candles, fireworks, or propane fueled devices allowed.

DRONES

Unmanned aerial systems, vehicles, drones, or other flying devices are strictly prohibited during the event.

SAFETY
Parade participants will not engage in behavior that unreasonably endangers the safety of any person at the event. This includes riding on or clinging to a parade unit in a manner likely to cause injury. Please help make our parade a safe one.

PERFORMANCES & DEMONSTRATIONS
No stopping the parade for any reason including performances or demonstrations. Stopping the parade for any reason will ban you from future parades. The only exception are high school marching bands.

MARCHING BANDS ONLY
E-mail your parade announcement form to mstockdale@woodstockga.gov. This will make it easier the day of the event and ensure the parade judges receive your form. This applies to marching bands only.

At parade line up, feel free to find an area for staging and rehearsal.

At 5:00 pm, the bands must be at the front of the school so as to be assigned a spot in the parade lineup.

At parade end, please have buses and trailers wait along the outer edge of the parking lot of Sam's Club so we don't interfere with their customers or the end of parade flow. No parking in the loading dock area.

Vacate this space quickly so the next band can use that area, too.

PARADE PARTICIPANTS

PARADE ROUTE
The parade starts at Woodstock Elementary School at 230 Rope Mill Road and continues down Rope Mill Road to Main Street. It then travels south on Main Street and ends at Sam's Club just before Highway 92. The route is approximately 1.3 miles long. Please limit the number of walkers you will have so the parade can keep moving at a slow and steady pace with no gaps in between units.

CHILDREN
Parents/guardians are responsible for the safety of their children.

Please, children under age 6 should not walk in the parade. They may not be able to keep up with the pace. Be mindful that the parade is 1.3 miles long and may be too much for them.

Children participating in the parade must always be under the supervision and direction of a responsible adult. All entries, in which children are to be a part, are to be made by an adult, who assumes, by virtue of placing the entry, full responsibility for the safety and action of the children participating in their unit.

Do not attempt to drop children off at the front of the school parade line up area – it is extremely dangerous. Parents must park across the street or behind the school and walk their children to floats already in line.

CHRISTMAS JUBILEE PARADE OF LIGHTS

Entries, including walkers, MUST be LIT UP to enter parade.

Do **NOT** dress as Santa, it confuses the kids. We have just ONE Santa in the parade. Santa hats are allowed.

Be careful of the kids. Use glow sticks, necklaces, bracelets, or flashlights to light up the kids as they walk.

No headlights, running lights only!

VEHICLES & FLOATS

FLOAT SIZES

Traffic lights are 13.6 feet from the ground.

Floats can be no wider than 12' wide.

No limousines, trucks, or trailers longer than 30 feet, you will not be able to maneuver around the parking lots.

The parade route is 1.3 miles long.

DECORATIONS

Float and/or vehicle must be decorated, or they cannot participate.

Only final touch decorating is allowed in the lineup area. Bring everything *with* you. You will not be allowed to drop anything or anybody at the front of the school or on the side of the road, this includes riders, decorations, ice, water, candy, etc. No exceptions! Use the back parking lot of the school or the church across the street to gather your participants and/or finish decorating your float. Join the parade lineup when you are ready.

Decorations are REQUIRED in keeping with the spirit of a parade. Please don't enter a vehicle with just a flag or a Santa hat and no other decoration. Vehicles that are not fully decorated add nothing to the enjoyment of the parade. The only exceptions to this rule are antique vehicles.

While decorating, please be aware that we have received phone calls from people complaining that they did not come to the parade to watch a commercial. We love to support our local businesses, but please, keep your parade entry festive!

All entries must be suitable for family audience, including young children.

Holiday music is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED!!!

FLOAT DECORATING CONTEST

Judges at the Grandstand will select the Best Holiday, Most Original, Most Spirited Golf Cart, Most Spirited Jeep, and the History & Heritage Award for the float best representing Woodstock!

Trophies will be awarded at the beginning of the City Council meeting on **Monday, December 14th at 7:00 pm.** The address to the Chambers at City Center is 8534 Main St. (Main St. @ Towne Lake Pkwy)

HORSES & OTHER ANIMALS

Participants must provide street cleaning services behind horses and dogs in assembly areas and along the parade route. Horses can wear a parade diaper if you choose.

Do not stop the parade to allow the petting of horses or any other animals.

All animal units must be registered by parade application.

Caged animals and/or animals on a leash deemed dangerous to the public are not permitted.

DRIVERS

Motor vehicle operators driving in the parade must hold a valid operator's license and insurance. This includes golf carts, lawn mowers, or other motorized vehicles.

Keep moving - Drive at a slow and steady pace. No stopping the parade. Stay as close as safely possible to the unit ahead of you.

Be extremely careful of kids both walking and on the sidelines.

Keep an eye on the entry behind you and lower your speed so they can catch up if there is a gap. Watch for walkers in front of you, you may not see them over the top of your vehicle.

Drivers shall not operate their unit at a speed or in such a manner that unreasonably endangers the safety of occupants, spectators, or other participants.

Check vehicle batteries to make sure they don't die at the parade start. Keep lights and radios off when vehicle is not running. Notify event staff immediately if your battery dies while in the parade line up. Pull over to the furthest side of the road if you vehicle dies during the parade so the parade can safely pass you.

No wheelies, burnouts, donuts, revving engines, swerving, or zig zag driving. You will be asked to leave.

Do not stop to unload passengers prior to the end of the parade. Do not turn back into the parade for any reason at any time.

Your vehicle must be able to go through the lineup parking lot and down the parade route safely and with ease in order to participate.

PARADE LINE UP

WHERE Line up in the front parking lot at Woodstock Elementary School at 230 Rope Mill Road, Woodstock, 30188.

WHEN	**3:00 pm**	Line up begins - Any earlier, you will not be allowed in.
	5:00 pm	Line up ends - Any later, you will be turned away.
	5:30 pm	Parade start - Be ready.
	7:15 pm	Parade end - Approximately.

HOW Order of lineup is first come, first served. Staff will guide you to your position. No requesting, reserving, or changing spots. Do not enter line up area prior to 3:00 pm. You will be asked to exit and re-enter.

WALKERS & RIDERS

Walkers or riders in the parade must be dropped off at the **back of the school** and take the shortcut on the side of the building to join the line up at the front of the school.

It is best to have a common meeting place where walkers and riders can meet and then join the float before getting in line.
Do not attempt to drop children off at the front of the school – it is extremely dangerous. Parents must park across the street or behind the school and walk their children to floats already in line.

Walkers must walk along the sides of moving vehicles. Drivers may not see you in front of them.

Walkers stay close to your vehicle or float and keep pace with the parade unit in front of you.

Bring bottled water and dress with weather conditions in mind.

DROP OFFS

There will be no drop offs whatsoever in the parade lineup parking lot, in front of the school, or on the side of the road. Make arrangements prior to arrival. This includes riders, decorations, ice, water, candy, etc. No exceptions!

Walkers or riders in the parade must be dropped off at the **back of the school** and take the shortcut on the side of the building to join the line up at the front of the school. It is best to have a common meeting place where walkers and riders can meet and then join the float before getting in line.

Do not attempt to drop children off at the front of the school – it is extremely dangerous. Parents must park across the street or behind the school and walk their children to floats already in line.

IMPORTANT - BRING THESE WITH YOU TO THE PARADE LINE UP AREA:

PARADE ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

Bring your Parade Announcement Form that you have printed from the website.

Write clearly and limit to two lines. You will be in front of the grandstand just briefly.

Leave it on your dashboard. We will pick up from you and give you an assigned number that will be posted on your driver's side bumper with blue painter's tape.

If you do not have a vehicle, please flash your number to the Judges at the Grandstand so they can announce your entry.

If your form is not ready, we will not wait and will just list the name of your float.

ONE entry PER announcement form. Each golf cart or jeep in a group must have their own announcement form as they will each be assigned their own number in the parade. If you just list Cherokee Jeepers on your form and no name, you will be disqualified from the decorating contest if you win.

GROUP WAIVER FORM

Bring the City of Woodstock ACCIDENT WAIVER & RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM.

It is your responsibility to have each participant (or parent) sign this form before the event. **We will collect these just before the parade begins.**

If you have children whose parents are not with them on the float, you must have the parent fill one out and return it to you *prior* to the parade lineup. Bring those waivers to go along with the ones you collect during line up.

PARADE END INSTRUCTIONS - TWO CHOICES

We will be ending the parade at the BACK parking lot of Sam's Club on Main St. At this point, **you can either**:

Turn into Sam's Club Parking Lot

To drop off passengers and walkers or to disassemble your float to make it road safe.

Follow the float in front of you and move as far forward into the parking lot that you can. Watch for event staff to direct you. Oversized trucks/trailers must not pull into the parking lot.

The parking lot will be extremely crowded, so take extreme caution. Please do not hang out in this area after the parade, keeps kids close.

Please exit the parking lot as quickly and as safely as possible.

OR

Drive Straight to Hwy. 92 (PREFERRED)

If **not** unloading or disassembling.

If **not** dropping off passengers or walkers.

If safe to do so, continue to drive straight down Hwy 5/Main St. or to Hwy. 92. to reach your destination.

We encourage all who safely can to continue driving so as not to congest the parking lot further as Sam's Club will be open at that time. Oversized trucks must not pull into the parking lot.

You will not be allowed to leave the parade at any point other than the end at Sam's Club. Doing so is dangerous and could cause serious injury to others in the parade.

You will not be invited back to participate if you *stop* the parade to unload your riders along the parade route. This will be strictly enforced.

PARTICIPANT PICK UP AFTER THE PARADE

You must share these instructions with any parents who will be picking up or dropping off their children for the parade. Please encourage carpooling as the parking lot will fill up.

For parents needing to pick up children at the end of the parade, you may pick them up in the parking lot towards the back of Sam's Club but not in the float parking area.

Parents, please park in the ***middle area*** of the parking lot closest to the Sam's Club gas station. Walk over to pick up your child from the reserved float area. You are not allowed to park where the floats are pulling in.

Please exit the parking lot as quickly and as safely as possible.

GENERAL RULES & CODES OF CONDUCT

Parade participants who fail to abide by these rules, instructions, and decisions, may lose the opportunity to participate in the parade, are grounds for removal from the parade, and may be asked to leave. Flagrant violations of these rules may prevent future participation by that organization and/or individuals involved. Failure to follow the directions received from parade officials will be considered a flagrant violation of the Parade Rules.

The City of Woodstock reserves the right to refuse an entry into the parade if, in its sole judgement, it determines that the entry is controversial, unlawful, obscene, vulgar, defamatory, offensive to local community standards, or otherwise considered to be inconsistent with the standards, theme, quality, or purposes of the parade. Entries who are denied entry may appeal the decision of staff to the Mayor and Council.

Conduct on the part of any unit or individual that may embarrass the City of Woodstock will be cause for immediate removal from the parade by the parade officials or law enforcement.

Participants are responsible for maintaining order and responding to any order by parade officials or law enforcement personnel relating to their entry.

It is the responsibility of each entry sponsor to ensure that every entry participant is aware of and agrees to comply with these rules. Each entry participant must be made aware that they must follow the instructions and directives they receive from parade officials and law enforcement officers.

Entries whose sole purpose is to advocate for a particular candidate, political party, or religious belief, must do so in a positive manner which would not disparage any other entry, political party, candidate, or religious belief.

No individual or group of individuals may use the parade as a forum to display or distribute materials or voice or transmit audio materials in support for or against theirs or any others situation, policy, political, or social position.

The City of Woodstock's parades are not partisan. The City has determined there are adequate venues for public demonstration and protests and that active civil disobedience during the parade would be detrimental to the goals and purposes of the event. Applicants who are denied entry may appeal the decision of staff to the Mayor and Council.

A submission of registration signifies acceptance and compliance of rules and codes of conduct. I agree to the terms of this registration and will instruct members of my organization/volunteers/guests to abide by its instructions, rules, and codes of conduct.

I agree to have every participant on my float/display sign the Group City of Woodstock Accident Waiver & Release of Liability form prior to the start of the event. I agree to have the signature sheet ready to be picked up at the event by City of Woodstock staff before we will be allowed to participate in the event.

The printable version of the Group Waiver and the Instructions, Rules, & Codes of Conduct can be found on our website www.WoodstockParksandRec.com under Special Events, Event Details, then the Christmas Jubilee page.

Please be patient with us and each other!

Thanks again for your participation!

See you next time!

CITY OF
WOODSTOCK
PARKS AND RECREATION

Rev. 11-3-26