



# 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Parade of Lights

## *“12 Days of Christmas”*

Coordinated by the City of Humble Beautification Committee

The Annual Christmas Parade of Lights has grown into one of the largest “small town” parades in the Houston area. There is no better way to advertise your company, organization, or to support your community. Kids, parents, and grandparents love the parade and look forward to this event every year!

After the parade Santa Claus always visits Uptown Park to take the “wish lists” of children of all ages. With any luck at all, Santa will be able to join us again for this great tradition. Local performers will entertain the crowd at Uptown Park prior to the parade.

**The parade is scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2009 at 6:30pm** and will once again be held on historic Main Street. This year’s theme is the “12 Days of Christmas”.

To enter the parade, just fill out the attached application and return it with your **\$20.00 application fee**. **Also we are asking you to provide one new toy valued at \$5.00 or more for needy families.** Toys will be collected the night of the parade at the staging area. **The deadline to register is November 20, 2009. Any applications received after this date will be charged \$35.00 plus the new toy. No applications will be accepted after November 30, 2009.**

You can register as a float entry or as a walking entry. Each category is broken down into different classifications and will be judged and awarded as such.

#### **Float Categories:**

1. Corporate / Franchise Business Float  
(Professional Floats and large businesses)
2. Locally Owned Business Float  
(Small businesses, employee built floats)
3. Motor Vehicles (cars, fire trucks, etc.)
4. Adult Community Organization Float
5. Children’s Community Organization Float
6. School Float

#### **Walking Categories:**

1. Marching Bands
2. School Groups (drill team, cheerleaders, etc.)
3. Children’s Group (dance groups, twirlers, scout groups, etc.)
4. Adult groups

Judging will occur as the parade passes the Judges Reviewing Stand located in the 300 block of Main Street in front of Uptown Park. Judging will be based on adherence to the theme and use of lights. In the past, participants have been given thirty seconds to perform in front of the Judges Stand. ***This will no longer be the case;*** each entry must perform any skits, dances, maneuvers, or other actions as they **move** past the Judges Stand. Performances on the move will also be a major part of the judging this year. The winners will be notified within 72 hours after completion of the parade.

If you have a group with walkers and a float, you will be judged as a float unless you file two entries along with two application fees – NO EXCEPTIONS.

**It is because of companies and organizations like you that this parade continues to be a success each year. We are excited about this year’s parade and hope to see you there as a participant. Thank you for your interest!**

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## Regulations and Rules

Our staff of volunteers is limited and will have their hands full on the night of the parade, so please read these rules very carefully and decide on your arrival, parking, departure, etc. before the night of the parade. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation!

- All floats must be lighted, preferably with white lights
- Floats must not exceed 12 feet in height
- All floats must have a legible sign with their business or organization name on each side of the float. This is important for judging purposes. Numbers will be distributed the night of the parade and must be mounted on floats or carried by walkers on the **right side near the front** of the vehicle or group. This number is for identification purposes only and in no way marks your position in the parade.
- **No live Santa’s or likenesses are allowed.** There is only one Santa, and he arrives at the end of the parade.
- Music is optional, but it must be Christmas music. This includes music for dance groups. Loud speakers used for any purpose other than to provide music is strictly prohibited. Music must be kept to a low level or off in the staging area so that communication is possible prior to the start of the parade. Once the float has crossed the railroad track area the volume can be turned up.
- **Candy may be handed out to the side of the parade route by walking adults only. *Anyone throwing candy from a moving vehicle or float will be disqualified from judging.***
- **(NEW FOR 2009) No animals such as horses or dogs are allowed to participate in the parade or be part of a float.**
- The parade lineup will be designated by the parade committee and all participants will abide by their decision. If you have multiple cars or floats that you would like to have follow each other during the parade route, those cars or floats need to arrive at the staging area together or risk being separated.
- Motorized floats and walking groups will not be separated in the parade lineup so it is imperative to maintain a slow smooth pace. The approximate speed will be two (2) miles per hour, which most vehicles can do by idling and riding the brake. Please be careful of pedestrians along the parade route and within the parade itself. Children will run into the route to gather candy that is tossed out and that is the main reason **you must not throw candy**. The streets are dark and children do not see the danger of darting in front of a car or float.
- All floats and groups will continue moving throughout the parade route. **In the past participants were allowed a thirty second time for performance in front of the Judging Stand. This will no longer be the case so please make plans for any performances, skits, maneuvers, or actions as a moving performance. There will be no stopping along the parade route for any reason, you may perform as many times as you like but you must keep moving.** Judges will be instructed to grade your float or group on any performances and if you stop, points will be deducted. Be creative with your moving performances and come up with something different!

- Advertising is restricted to your name on banners and floats. Handouts are not allowed. You will be disqualified from judging if your litter is found on the street. **Absolutely no solicitation is allowed.**
- **All floats and groups MUST meet in the staging area which will be located on Main Street west of the railroad tracks. The main staging area will be on Main Street from Bender Ave. (next to the police station) to the railroad tracks. A secondary area will be located on Main Street from the feeder road to Bender Ave.**
- **Once you are in the staging area you will need to prepare your float or group before the start of the parade.**
- **You will need to check in and receive your float number at the “Parade Check-in and Information Booth” located in front of the Chamber of Commerce building, located between the Police Department and Fire Department. It is imperative that someone from your group check in and get your float number. This number should be placed on the right side of your float or carried by someone on the right side so that the judges can see it as you approach the judging stand.**
- **A map of the staging area and of the parade route is included in this package for you to review, make copies, and distribute if necessary.**

All floats, vehicles, trailers, and other large moving items need to be in the staging area by **5:00pm**. All persons, participants, groups, etc. should all be at the staging area no later than **5:30pm**. Someone with the parade committee will be at the staging area by **4:00pm** on the day of the parade if you choose to come early to drop off your float. This is highly recommended.

If you are dropping off children or participants you will not be allowed into the staging area with your vehicle. You will have to find a parking area close to the staging location and walk your participants to your group or float location. Parking can be found near Main Street and Bender Avenue at businesses that are closed for the evening, at City Hall, along Higgins Street, and near Bally’s.

If you are dropping off participants who will be walking you may want to move your vehicle closer to the end of the parade route in order to pick them up so that they do not have to walk all the way back to the beginning. Parking may be available at the old Civic Center located on South Houston between Main St. and Higgins, and also at the old HISD building on Higgins.

If you use a bus, please refer to the map and find the bus parking area. After the bus has been unloaded at the staging area you may leave it parked at that location or move it farther east on Higgins closer to the end of the parade route. Parking may be available at the old Civic Center located on South Houston between Main St. and Higgins, and also at the old HISD building on Higgins.

- **Teachers, leaders, and parents are responsible for seeing that all persons involved in their group are made aware of all the regulations, rules, and parking limitations.**
- Large groups such as school bands must understand that there will be no room in the staging area for getting into formation. This will be done in the street just before it is your turn to get in line.
- The parade route will begin at the railroad tracks on Main Street. It will precede east on Main and turn left (north) at Avenue H. Participants are asked to turn left on Higgins and head back west towards the staging area. *If you wish to take your float or group elsewhere, you may do so after the turn onto Avenue H.* The Main parade route is Main Street and ends after the turn on Avenue H.

*\*Thanks for your cooperation and participation in this great community event\**

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## Application for Registration

Name of Person Completing Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Company / Organization / Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address if available: \_\_\_\_\_

*Check appropriate classification for your entry, this will determine how you will be judged!*

Float Category:

\_\_\_\_ Corporate / Franchise Business Float  
(Professional Floats and large businesses)

\_\_\_\_ Locally Owned Business Float  
(Small businesses, employee built floats)

\_\_\_\_ Motor Vehicle (cars, fire trucks, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ Adult Community Organization Float

\_\_\_\_ Children's Community Organization Float

\_\_\_\_ School Float

Walking Category:

\_\_\_\_ Marching Band

\_\_\_\_ School Group (drill team, cheerleaders, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ Children's Group

(dance groups, twirlers, scout groups, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ Adult Group

Approximate size of float or walking group: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be playing music? YES NO

Approximate time of arrival (you must be at the staging area no later than 5:30pm) \_\_\_\_\_

List any special needs or concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief Description of your Group (to be used for announcement during the parade): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

By signing this application, the parade entrant states that he or she has read, understood, and agrees to follow all the regulations and rules stated on the previous page and agrees to make certain that all participants in his or her group also agrees to follow those same regulations and rules.

Signature of Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Completed Registration Form and \$20.00 (\$35.00 if late registration) to:**

**DO NOT FORGET TO BRING A TOY THE NIGHT OF THE PARADE!**

**City of Humble / Beautification Committee**

**114 W. Higgins St**

**Humble Tx 77338**

**Call 281-319-9788 for further information**

You may drop off this application and your fee at City Hall instead of mailing it.